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General: U.S. slow to adjust during Iraq fight

Wallace says he failed to recognize shift of power to Iraqi people

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2 sentenced to death, 4 get jail for USS Cole attack

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AP photos

Left: Fahd al-Qasbi waits in his courtroom cell for sentencing Wednesday for his role in the 2000 attack on the USS Cole. Al-Qasbi received a 10-year prison sentence. Right: A small boat guards the USS Cole on Oct. 20, 2000, eight days after a suicide bombing that killed 17 American sailors as their destroyer refueled in the southern Yemeni port of Aden. A Yemeni judge sentenced two men — Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri and Jamal al-Badawi — to death and four others to prison terms ranging from five to 10 years.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Fast-food prank calls: A man suspected of making hoax phone calls to fast-food restaurants and encouraging management to strip search employees was released from jail while authorities determine if they detained the right person.

David R. Stewart, 37, of Fountain, Fla., was being monitored by a tracking device after Circuit Judge Michael Overstreet let him out of jail Tuesday. A court hearing was set for next week to determine whether to continue with the case against him.

Stewart had been held at the Bay County Jail in Florida since his arrest at home in July on a fugitive warrant from Mount Washington, Ky. He is accused of calling several fast-food restaurants in Kentucky and Massachusetts, posing as a police officer and ordering restaurant managers to strip search employees.

Accused dog-handler: A Detroit woman who once was recognized as one of the nation's best trainers and handlers of cadaver-sniffing dogs was sentenced Tuesday to 21 months in prison for planting bones and other fake evidence in cases she worked.

Sandra M. Anderson, 43, of Sanford, Mich., pleaded guilty in March to five felony charges, including obstruction of justice and making false statements to federal authorities.

Anderson had claimed to have conducted about 200 searches annually for police and historical preservation groups over 17 years. But Craig Fitzgerald, a Justice Department attorney, told the court that investigators reviewed about 50 cases on which Anderson worked and said she provided no real help.

An August 2003 indictment said Anderson — with her dog Eagle, a Doberman-German shepherd pointer mix — faked evidence in several cases in Michigan and Ohio, she planted bones in search areas and used her body fluids to stain a saw blade, coins and a piece of cloth, it said.

Ten Commandments judge: A judge dismissed a lawsuit demanding that ousted Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore pay the \$550,000 in attorneys' fees awarded to groups that sued to have his Ten Commandments monument removed from the state judicial building.

The order by Circuit Judge Tracy McCooey, which attorneys received Tuesday in Montgomery, said the 10 citizens who filed the suit had no legal standing to seek the removal of spent state funds.

The plaintiffs — ranging from atheists to pastors — claimed that Moore should pay, on grounds he knew his defense of the 5,300-pound monument would fail.

A federal judge ruled that the monument was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion by government and ordered it removed. Moore refused and, after being overruled by his colleagues on the Supreme Court, was expelled from office for violating judicial ethics canons.

Late-term abortion ban: The Justice Department said Tuesday that it will appeal a Nebraska judge's ruling striking down the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf declared the ban unconstitutional Sept. 8, saying it interferes with the right to an abortion and failed to allow exceptions when a woman's health is in danger.

The Justice Department said it will challenge ruling on both counts before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Erased Scalia speech: The Associated



Anderson



Middle East unrest: An Israeli bulldozer clears the area Wednesday during an Israeli army incursion aimed at Palestinian militants into Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip. About 110 Israeli vehicles — including tanks, armored personnel carriers and bulldozers — moved into northern Gaza, witnesses said. Three Palestinians were killed in the overnight raid, including a Hamas militant, and 10 wounded in an exchange of fire with Israeli forces.

Press and the Hattiesburg (Miss.) American agreed Tuesday to end their litigation against the U.S. Marshals Service over the erasing of recordings of a speech by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

The government had conceded in a filing on Sept. 10 that the Marshals Service violated federal law when a deputy marshal ordered reporters to erase their recordings of Scalia's April speech at a Hattiesburg high school.

The Justice Department also said the reporters and their employers are each entitled to \$1,000 in damages and reasonable attorneys' fees, as sought by the media organizations.

During the April 7 speech, a deputy federal marshal, Melanie Rube, demanded that AP reporter Denise Grimes and Hattiesburg American reporter Antoinette Konz erase recordings of the justice's remarks. The reporters had not been told before the speech that they could not use tape recorders.

World

Sept. 11 suspect: A Moroccan charged with helping the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers viewed Americans as enemies and appeared to support the attacks on New York and Washington, a former fellow prisoner testified Tuesday.

Mutlu Aksu, a 32-year-old Turk serving a sentence for illegally entering Germany, told the Hamburg state court that he spent several months at the same prison as defendant Moumin el Motassadeq when the latter was in custody awaiting trial.

Aksu said he got the impression that el Motassadeq knew about the Sept. 11 plot and was "proud of it" — something the Moroccan denies — but added that "he did not tell me that in so many words."

El Motassadeq, charged with more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization, has acknowledged knowing Hamburg-based hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah as friends but said he was unaware of their plot.

Asian bird flu: Thailand declared a national war on bird flu Wednesday as Asia's death toll in the epidemic rose to 30 with Vietnam confirming another fatality, amid concern that the virus had passed from humans to humans.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said the disease must be eradicated before colder weather sets in, when people are more vulnerable to viruses. Migratory birds believed to spread the illness also arrive then.

His remarks came after Thailand set alarm bells ringing Tuesday when it reported its first case of probable human-to-human transmission of the virus — a 26-year-old woman, Pranee Sodhuen, who became the country's 10th confirmed fatality.

Abandoned baby: A woman whose infant son died after she abandoned him last year outside a conference of Asian leaders in Bangkok, Thailand, was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in prison, a Criminal Court official said.

Nongkhum McKaweney, 23, was initially sentenced to death, but the penalty was reduced after she pleaded guilty to murder and child abandonment charges and was found to have acted out of stress and confusion, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The baby died of respiratory failure at a Bangkok hospital on Oct. 22 last year, days after a police officer found the newborn wrapped in two plastic bags and dumped in a trash can near a venue where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum was being held.

Wandering crocodile: A crocodile that became a Hong Kong celebrity by evading capture for months will be put on public display at the local research institute it now calls home, officials said Tuesday.

The croc — named Pui Pui, or "precious one" — has been held in quarantine at the Kadonrie Farm and Research Institute since it was snared in June after making headlines by foling hunters from Hong Kong, Australia and China for seven months.

The 5-foot croc, which was first spotted in a polluted suburban creek in November, generated intense media and public interest while on the run.

Military

Land acquisition: Native Hawaiian groups went to court Monday to try and block the Army's acquisition of 1,400 acres of pineapple fields and other agriculture land near Schofield Barracks for its new Striker unit.

The groups contend the Army failed to consider any location other than Hawaii before deciding to move forward with plans to renovate and expand existing island facilities to transform the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade at Schofield Barracks to a more mobile, fast-moving Striker unit. The new brigade would bring 291 Striker vehicles and about 800 additional soldiers to Hawaii.

Stories and photos from wire services

4 U.S. troops wounded by Baghdad blast

British hostage pleads for his life on new tape aired on Al-Jazeera

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Four U.S. soldiers on a patrol were wounded Wednesday by an improvised explosive set by insurgents northwest of the Iraqi capital, the U.S. command said.

The wounded were evacuated for medical treatment and reported in stable condition, a statement said.

The attack occurred near Riyadh, where the 1st Infantry Division operates. The statement provided no other details of the attack.

A British hostage pleaded for his government to save his life in a new video aired Wednesday on Arab television after the release of two Italian women and 10 other hostages. In Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi forces raided suspected insurgent hideouts, sparking clashes along a street in the heart of the capital.

Meanwhile, violence continued unabated. Thirteen people were killed since Tuesday night in drive-by shootings, ambushes and grenade attacks south of the capital and elsewhere.

The freeing of the two Italian women, Simona Torretta and Simona Pari, raised hopes that other hostages might be released — and it raised questions over how to deal with kidnappers after an Italian lawmaker said Wednesday he believed the Italian government paid a ransom, possibly of \$1 million. The government denied any ransom was paid.

Hiking up the pressure for Britain to make concessions, a video aired on Al-Jazeera television showed British hostage Kenneth

Bigley pleading to Prime Minister Tony Blair to work for his release — the second such video apparently released by his captors.

Tawhid and Jihad, a militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has claimed to have beheaded two American hostages who were kidnapped along with Bigley and has threatened to kill the Briton as well unless Iraqi women prisoners are released.

A day after her and Pari's release, Italian aid worker Torretta told reporters outside her home in Rome that her captors assured them they were not in danger.

The two women, both 29, work for the aid group "Al Ponte per..." ("A Bridge To..."), which carries out water projects and helps Iraqi children. They were kidnapped Sept. 7 in a raid on their agency's Baghdad office.

Four Egyptian telecommunications workers abducted last week were also freed Monday and Tuesday, their parent company, Orascom, announced in Cairo. Two other Egyptians remain hostage.

Two Iraqis who were seized with the Italians and four Iraqis snatched with the Egyptians have also been released.

Meanwhile, efforts were also under way to try to secure the release of two French journalists held hostage since late August.

The journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, disappeared Aug. 20, along with their Syrian driver, and their captors — the Islamic Army in Iraq — later demanded France revoke a ban on the wearing of Islamic headscarves in public schools.

In Wednesday's raids in the central Baghdad area of Haila Street, Iraqi security forces



Iraqi National Guard soldiers aim their guns as they participate in a raid at Sheikh Maroof neighborhood on Haila street, Baghdad, on Wednesday. Six terrorists, linked with recent car bomb attacks on Haila street that killed scores of prospective and serving Iraqi policemen, were arrested, and a large cache of arms and explosives was discovered.

backed by U.S. troops arrested a suspected terrorist, an Iraqi National Guard commander said.

Kadhim al-Dafan is believed to be a key neighborhood leader, responsible for car bombs and other attacks in the area, said Col. Mohammed Abdullah. Five other suspected insurgents were also taken into custody as U.S. and Iraqi forces clashed with rebels on the street.

There was also a spate of attacks Tuesday night at the southern approaches to Baghdad.

Guns opened fire on two vehicles carrying policemen near Latifiyah, about 15 miles south of

the capital, killing seven people inside the cars, said Salah Hamza, a doctor at Iskandariyah General Hospital.

Attackers also threw a hand grenade at a tent housing Shiite pilgrims set up by the side of the road just south of Baghdad, killing two civilians, hospital officials said.

In the town of Mahmudiyyah, the local leader of one of Iraq's main Shiite political parties escaped an assassination attempt in a drive-by shooting, but his driver was killed, a hospital official said.

Odai Abdel-Allah, the apparent intended target of the attack, heads the town's office of the Supreme

Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq party.

Three members of the party's armed wing, the Badr Brigade, were killed and two others seriously wounded when their car was hit by grenades and rifle fire in Baquba, north of Baghdad, said police Capt. Hashim Hamdan.

In Baghdad, a U.S. warplane struck a rocket launcher mounted on the back of a vehicle in the Baghdad slum of Sadr city overnight, destroying the vehicle and igniting several secondary explosions, the U.S. military said Wednesday. One man was killed and a woman was wounded in the strike, said a hospital official.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 1,051 members of the U.S. military have been killed in the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 798 died as a result of hostile action and 253 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths in Iraq. By land, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two, the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 913 U.S. military members have died — 689 as a result of hostile action and 224 of non-hostile causes, according to the

military's numbers as of Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 7,532 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.
■ The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Capt. Eric L. Alton, 34, Houston; died Sunday when he was struck by a mortar round in Ramadi, Iraq, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Joseito O. Villanueva, 36, Los Angeles; died Monday when he was shot by a sniper in Balad, Iraq; assigned to 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Lindh looking to get sentence reduced

BY DAVID KRAVETS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The attorney for American-born Taliban soldier John Walker Lindh wants his client's 20-year prison sentence commuted, citing the nation's heightened anxiety when the plea deal was made in 2002 and the fact that another U.S. citizen captured on an Afghanistan battlefield may soon be released.

James Brosnahan, Lindh's lawyer, made the request Monday and argued that Lindh was fighting alongside the Taliban in a civil war against the Northern Alliance, that he is not a terrorist and that he never fought against U.S. troops.

Brosnahan said he negotiated the 20-year sentence during a time when a "highest state of fear" was affecting U.S. juries and he thought it was the best deal he could get at the time. Lindh could have received life in prison if convicted.

Brosnahan also said the sentence should be reduced because Yaser Esam Hamdi, another American citizen captured in Afghanistan on suspicion of aiding the Taliban, is being released after being held for three years as an enemy combatant.

Hamdi will not be charged with any crime under an agreement with federal officials made public Monday.

Hamdi will be required to give up his U.S. citizenship and will be sent to Saudi Arabia, where he grew up.

"Comparable conduct should be treated in comparable ways in terms of sentencing," Brosnahan said at a news conference. Only President Bush can commute Lindh's sentence.

Justice Department spokesman Mark Corallo, while not commenting directly on the merits of Lindh's request, pointed out that Lindh "pleaded guilty to supporting the Taliban with his lawyers standing beside him."

Lindh's request does not specify how much of a reduction he is seeking.

Lindh, a 23-year-old Northern California native, pleaded guilty in civilian court to supplying services to the now-defunct Taliban government and carrying explosives for them. He and Hamdi were both captured in late 2001.

Frank Zimring, an expert on clemency at the University of California at Berkeley, said it is unlikely President George W. Bush will reduce Lindh's term, especially during a presidential election focused on the war on terror.

In all, the president has commuted the terms of two prisoners, both on May 20.



Left: Ahmad al-Badawi on Wednesday was sentenced to death for participating in the Oct. 12, 2000, attack against the USS Cole in San'a, Yemen. Abd al-Jamal al-Nashiri, who is in U.S. custody, was also given the death penalty. Center: Mura al-Sirouri, left, and Maamoun Masoud were convicted of participating in the attack and received five- and eight-year prison sentences, respectively. Right: Fahd al-Qasa was sentenced to 10 years for filming the bombing. Ali Mohamed Saleh, not pictured, also received a five-year prison term.

2 get death for USS Cole attack

BY AHMED AL-HAJ
The Associated Press

SAN'A, Yemen — A Yemeni judge sentenced two men to death and four others to prison terms ranging from five to 10 years Wednesday, the first convictions and sentences for the 2000 suicide bombing of the USS Cole, an attack blamed on Osama bin Laden's terror network.

Saudi-born Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who is in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location, and Jamal al-Badawi, a 35-year-old Yemeni, were sentenced to death for plotting, preparing and involvement in the bombing, which killed 17 U.S. sailors as their Virginia-based destroyer refueled in the southern Yemeni port of Aden.

Al-Nashiri, believed to be the mastermind of the Oct. 12, 2000, bombing, was tried in absentia, and it was not clear how the ruling would affect his detention. Four American officials who attended the sentencing refused to comment on the trial, as did U.S. Embassy officials in Yemen.

The other five defendants — all Yemenis — were present in the

4 others get jail time for Oct. 2000 bombing that killed 17 U.S. sailors

heavily guarded court to hear the sentences. In reading the verdict, Judge Najib al-Qaderi pointed to the prosecution's statement that Badawi and al-Nashiri bought the speedboat that the bombers used to ram the Cole.

"This verdict is an American one and unjust," al-Badawi yelled from behind the bars of a courtroom cell after the judge sentenced him to death. "There are no human rights in the world, except for the Americans. All the Muslims in the world are being used to serve American interests."

The United States announced al-Nashiri's arrest in 2002. He was detained in the United Arab Emirates and transferred to American custody. U.S. officials believe he is a close associate of Saudi-born bin Laden, who is believed to have masterminded the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

In addition to the Cole attack, al-Nashiri is suspected of helping

direct the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Death sentences are routinely handed down by Yemeni courts. Execution is carried out by a firing squad.

Mohammed al-Badawi, brother of the Yemeni condemned to death, denounced the decision and told The Associated Press that his brother and the four other Yemenis sentenced Wednesday would appeal their sentences.

Al-Badawi's father, also called Mohammed, urged Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh to overturn the judge's decision, which he claimed was made "under heavy American pressure."

"It is a deadly, violent verdict and we will appeal," the father said.

The six men are all charged with belonging to al-Qaida and playing various roles in the attack on the Cole, which was carried out by suicide bombers Ibrahim

al-Thawri and Hasean al-Khamri, who were by the alias of Abdullah al-Misawa. The two Yemenis jammed an explosives-laden boat into the destroyer.

"The evidence obtained by the court affirms the collaboration of the defendants in the case which harmed the country, its reputation and threatened its social stability and security," al-Qaderi told the court before issuing his sentences.

Al-Qaderi sentenced Fahd al-Qasa to 10 years in jail for filming the bombing.

Maamoun Masoud received an eight-year prison term for delivering money used in preparing and executing the attack and playing a close role in assisting al-Badawi.

Ali Mohamed Saleh and Mura al-Sirouri were both sentenced to five years in prison for forging identification documents for al-Khamri.

The Cole underwent \$250 million worth of repairs at a shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. The Cole completed its first overseas deployment since the bombing, returning to Norfolk Naval Base in May after six months in the Mediterranean Sea.

Navy keeps tight lid on Iraq prison abuse case

BY SETH HETTENA
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — When U.S. Marine reservists were implicated last year in the abuse of Iraqi detainees at a makeshift lockup outside Nasiriyah, their names were quickly released. And it wasn't long before the public learned the names and backgrounds of U.S. soldiers seen grinning in photos taken at the Abu Ghraib prison.

But the U.S. Navy is keeping a much tighter lid on the identity of seven of its elite SEAL commandos who have been charged with assaulting Iraqi prisoners. Few details have been released since charges were first announced Sept. 2.

Navy Capt. Raul A. Pedrozzi, the judge advocate for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, where the SEALs are based, denied a Freedom of Information Act filed by The Associated Press requesting the identities of the accused. In addition to the SEALs, Among the reasons Pedrozzi cited was that U.S. law exempted identities of members of "sensitive units" from disclosure.

The enormous volume of classified evidence may be complicating things, said John Tranberg, a civilian defense attorney who is representing one of the SEALs charged in the case, a decorated sailor whom he declined to name.

The accused SEALs were members of "capturing units" taking part in sensitive operations in Iraq, orders at the direction of the CIA, said Tranberg, who recently represented a Marine reservist convicted of abusing prisoners in Iraq. The SEALs ranged in rank from enlisted sailors to junior officers.

He declined to provide details. Charges against the SEALs include aggravated assault with intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, obstruction of justice and conduct unbecoming an officer.

The Navy said some of the charges stem from the Nov. 4, 2003, shooting of Mansoor al-Jamadi, a suspect in an attack on the International Committee of the Red Cross office.

While subduing al-Jamadi, a SEAL allegedly struck him on the side of the head with a gun butt. Two CIA personnel brought al-Jamadi to the Abu Ghraib prison and put him in a shower room, where he was found dead less than an hour later.

Pedrozzi said names of the SEALs will be provided if there is an Article 32 hearing — the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing — is convened. Releasing the names before then would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy and would deprive the accused of the right to a fair trial, he said.

The Navy has not yet assigned defense attorneys or an investigating officer. The case is being handled by Jeff Bender, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command. Those requests are pending.

Iraq insurgency is homegrown, U.S. military believes

BY MARK MAZZETTI
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The insistence by interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and many U.S. officials that foreign fighters are streaming into Iraq to battle American troops runs counter to the U.S. military's own assessment that the Iraqi insurgency remains primarily a homegrown problem.

In a U.S. visit last week, Allawi spoke of foreign insurgents "flooding" his country, and both President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kerry, have cited these fighters as a major security problem.

But according to top U.S. military officers in Iraq, the threat posed by foreign fighters is far less significant than American and Iraqi politicians portray. Instead, commanders said, loyalists to Saddam Hussein's regime represent the far greater threat to the country's fragile 3-month-old government.

Foreign militants such as the Jordanian-born Abu Musab Zarqawi are believed responsible for carrying out videotaped beheadings, suicide car bombings and other high-profile attacks. But U.S. military officials said Iraqi officials tend to exaggerate the number of foreign fighters in Iraq to obscure the fact that large numbers of their countrymen have taken up arms against U.S. troops and the American-backed interim Iraqi government.

In a television interview Sunday, Gen. John P. Abizaid of the U.S. Central Command estimated that the number of foreign fighters in Iraq was below 1,000.

"While the foreign fighters in Iraq are definitely a problem that have to be dealt with, I still think that the primary problem that we're dealing with is former regime elements of the ex-Baath Party that are fighting against the government and trying to do anything possible to upend the election process," he said. Iraqi elections are set for January.

U.S. officials admit that Iraq's porous border allows arms and money to be smuggled in with relative ease. As they describe it, however, the traffic from Syria to largely Iraqi Baathists who escaped after the U.S. invasion and couriers bringing in money from former members of Saddam's government.

U.S. military officials said the core of the insurgency in Iraq is Saddam loyalists who melted into Iraq's urban landscape when U.S. troops invaded in March 2003. During the succeeding months, they say, the insurgents' ranks have been bolstered by ordinary Iraqis who grew disillusioned with the U.S. failure to deliver basic services, jobs and reconstruction projects.

It is this expanding group, they say, that has given the insurgency its deadly power and who represent the biggest challenge to an Iraqi government trying to establish legitimate countrywide.

Blair denies Iraq war built on false premises

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

BRIGHTON, England — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday denied leading Britain into war on false grounds, despite intelligence on the threat posed by Iraq being wrong.

In his speech to his Labour Party's annual conference Tuesday, Blair acknowledged that intelligence suggesting Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons was unsound.

However, in an interview Wednesday with the British Broadcasting Corp., Blair said he did not think the "basis upon which we went to war was wrong."

But British leader says he thinks 'basis' of war sound

"We took the action as a result of Saddam's failure to comply with U.N. resolutions, and that noncompliance still stands," he said.

Blair said that, after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he believed the world had to tackle the threat posed by rogue regimes proactively.

"We had to take a totally new approach, and what that meant is that, in respect of regimes developing WMD, instead of taking a reactive approach we had to take an active approach," he told the BBC. "The place to start was Iraq because there was a string of U.N. resolutions, a long history of U.N. inspections not working."

With national elections widely expected in May, the five-day party conference was intended as a springboard for new policies and a chance to reunite the party to fight for a third term in office.

In his speech Tuesday, Blair came closer than ever before to apologizing for the misleading prewar intelligence about Iraq.

"I can apologize for the information that turned out to be wrong, but I can't, sincerely at least, apologize for removing Saddam," he said.

But the apology did not go as far as some had anticipated.

Briefing evening newspapers

whose deadline fell before Tuesday's speech, Blair aides said the prime minister would say: "I know this issue has divided the country. I am genuinely sorry about that, and I understand why many disagree."

But in his address Blair did not use the phrase "I am genuinely sorry," prompting consternation among some newspapers. The Guardian said "frantic last-minute rewriting" had watered down the speech.

Labour lawmaker Jeremy Corbyn, a vocal critic of the war, said Wednesday that Blair had issued a "halfhearted apology."

"The buzz around the confer-

ence this morning is that it was not enough," he said. "Tony Blair has got an awful lot more apologizing to do."

Also Wednesday, some 250 anti-war protesters rallied outside the conference center, bearing placards reading "Blair."

Among the marchers was an 11-year-old Iraqi girl, Zeynab Hamid Tareesh, who said she lost her right leg and 17 family members in bombing at the start of the war near Basra.

"If Tony Blair was in front of me now, I would tell him to get out of Iraq," she said, speaking through a translator. "Tony Blair and his government should get out of Iraq like Saddam Hussein and his sons. They say the war is over, but... it is much more dangerous," said Tareesh.

Italian aid volunteer Simona Pari is swarmed by reporters Wednesday outside her home in Rimini, Italy. Pari and another aid worker were released Tuesday night by their kidnappers in Iraq amid reports that the Italian government had paid \$500,000 for their release. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi refused to discuss the possible ransom.

AP photo



Italians debate whether ransom was paid

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO

The Associated Press

ROME — The release of two Italian aid workers held hostage in Iraq led Wednesday to questions over whether a ransom was paid, highlighting the dilemma many governments face if caving in to terrorists is the price of saving lives.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi brushed off the questions, telling La Stampa newspaper: "About this business, we won't say anything. Even more, we won't talk about it any more."

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini told state-run radio Wednesday that "no ransom at all" was paid.

But the conservative government's efforts didn't quell speculation, a day after Simona Pari and Simona Torretta returned home after three weeks in captivity.

The question is particularly delicate in Italy, which for decades has maintained a tough stance against domestic kidnappings of wealthy industrialists.

A 1990 law freezes the assets of hostages and their families to prevent ransom payments. The legislation, often applied despite desperate appeals from relatives willing to pay, is credited with reducing the number of abductions in the country.

Italy is the only European country to have such a law. But with kidnappings rampant in Iraq, Rome is hardly alone in facing the dilemma.

"Are there two classes of kidnapping victims, those seized in Iraq and those seized in



Simona Torretta arrives late Tuesday at Rome's Ciampino military airport. The Italian was kidnapped in Baghdad on Sept. 7.

Italy?" asked Eugenio Duranti, an insurance agent in Rome.

When faced with kidnappings, governments invariably say they are resisting negotiations with kidnappers, and hardly admit pay-

ing ransom.

"The government has denied it, but that's an official denial that comes in the context of the obligations of a government in order not to give the impression that it gave in to the ransom," Gustavo Selva, the head of the foreign affairs commission in the lower house of parliament, told French radio RTL. "I believe that it did pay."

"In principle, one should not give in to ransoms. But this time, they had to," said Selva, a political ally of Berlusconi. "The lives of two girls was the most important thing."

Speculation started after Kuwaiti newspaper Al-rai al-Aam reported Tuesday that a \$1 million ransom was demanded for the women's release, and that half the amount was paid Monday.

Most Italian papers agreed Wednesday the ransom had been paid.

"There's nothing to be ashamed of," La Repubblica wrote.

Corriere della Sera said in a front-page editorial: "There was no other way. Absolute intransigence would have led to the hostages' death."

Both papers said the kidnappers originally demanded a pullout of Italy's 3,000 troops in Iraq and a \$5 million ransom. The reports said Italian negotiators brought the figure down to a fourth of the original amount, while making clear that withdrawal was out of question.

Some fear kidnapping has become a profitable business in war-torn Iraq, prompting criminal groups to snatch foreigners for ransom while cloaking their intentions in religious or political garb.

NATO focuses on Iraqi training

U.S. officer to address Brussels conference

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The U.S. general in charge of rebuilding Iraq's armed forces is expected to meet soon with NATO officials finalizing plans to train Iraqi military officers, officials said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus is scheduled to visit alliance headquarters in the next two weeks, NATO officials said.

The allies agreed last week to expand NATO's training mission for Iraq's armed forces after ally France concerns that had delayed the plan.

Under the agreement, the alliance will send about 300 officers to run an academy outside Baghdad, broadening a training mission that began last month with the deployment of 40 NATO instructors.

Petraeus will command the NATO operation as well as running the wider U.S.-led mission to help set up a new 250,000-strong Iraqi military.

Ambassadors from the 26 NATO nations are expected to have their first discussion of detailed military plans for the mission at their regular weekly meeting next Wednesday.

Once they agree on the plan, the mission could be up and running within weeks, though it may take a little while longer, one NATO official said.

One of the first tasks will be to identify forces to prepare the site of the academy at Rustamiya, east of Baghdad, the official said.



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. William Wallace, former V Corps commander, says he didn't recognize quickly enough when the power shifted away from Saddam Hussein during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wallace spoke Wednesday at the Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

Wallace: Iraq moves were slow

Ex-V Corps CO says U.S. didn't notice power shift soon enough

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The U.S. military overwhelmed Saddam Hussein's forces on the way to Baghdad in spring 2003. But the man who led the ground invasion told soldiers Wednesday that he wished he had done a better job directing his units as the war shifted from conventional to street warfare.

Army Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace, the former commander of V Corps, also said he wished he had recognized more quickly when the power in Iraq shifted from Saddam's regime to the Iraqi people.

"There was a point when the regime was no longer relevant, no longer pulling the strings and running the country," Wal-

lace said Wednesday at the Land Combat Expo 2004, which runs through Thursday.

"In retrospect, we were slow to pick up on that. We missed an opportunity for the Iraqi people to become part of the solution instead of standing on the sidelines waiting to see how things turned out."

The inability to co-opt the Iraqi people in a timely manner as the tide turned was one the lessons Wallace said he learned while deploying and commanding V Corps at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When asked if the military did not have a plan, or a good enough plan, to "win the peace," Wallace replied that the plan was based on faulty assumptions on what would happen once the U.S.-led coalition



Author Ralph Peters, right, chats with Maj. Jason Welch while signing copies of his latest book, "Beyond Baghdad," at the USAREUR Land Combat Expo on Tuesday in Heidelberg, Germany.

captured Baghdad.

The Iraqi people were expected to cooperate more than they did, Wallace said. Public services such as electric, water and services were expected to be in better shape, as were the institutions that operated them.

"I did not have an appreciation of how intrinsically [Saddam's] Baath Party was woven

into the society," Wallace said.

Wallace, who now is commanding general of the U.S. Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., said that in future wars, "totalitarian regime changes and what follows has to be part of the planning up front."

SEE EXPO ON PAGE 7

VIP guest house named for NCO killed in Iraq

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Some of the Army's most senior soldiers in Europe opened the second day of the Land Combat Expo by paying tribute to a fallen friend and colleague during a solemn memorial Wednesday.

The troops assembled to dedicate the VIP guest house in Heidelberg to Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke, who was killed in action on Christmas Eve in Iraq last year.

"Today, we close ranks to celebrate and honor the ultimate sacrifice of one of our great noncommissioned officers," Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, said before the assembly of mostly sergeants major, colonels and general officers.



Cooke

troops," said Bell.

"It was his vehicle that was hit, and had he not made that trip, it would have been one of his soldiers killed. He took one for one of his soldiers."

Choking back tears, 1st Armored Division commander Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey told Cooke's mother that the largest base camp in Iraq "was named after your son, because he had the biggest heart."

Cooke's mother, Georgia, and wife, Damar, are the first to stay in the newly dedicated guest house, which has been decorated with memorabilia from Cooke's service in uniform.

"Because we were inspired by his actions, we dedicate this guest house so that others may be inspired as well," said Dempsey.

"He inspired ordinary soldiers to do extraordinary things in very hard places," added Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, Bell's top enlisted adviser.

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Center for Lessons Learned to expand

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — As daily fighting continues in Iraq, the Army is expanding its ability to capture lessons from the war — both for units preparing to head to the combat zone as well as real-time feedback for those in the middle of the fight.

Lt. Gen. William Wallace, the man who led the ground invasion into Iraq as the V Corps commander, told at the Army's Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg on Tuesday that he is increasing the Center for Lessons Learned.

Now commander of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Wallace told Stars and Stripes he's adding about 30 analysts to the staff and putting a general officer, or civilian equivalent, in charge of the Army's in-house think tank tasked with culling practical tactics, tips and tricks from the battlefield and sharing them with the rest of the service.

"We do a good job of that at the tactical level," said Wallace, "but we need to do more on the operational and strategic level, looking at things like how a corps headquarters turns into a joint task force while still engaging the enemy."

That's exactly what was going on when Wallace turned over the reins of V Corps to Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez in the summer of 2003 after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Meanwhile, Wallace said he's building plans to start sending evaluators from the Army's three main training facilities — the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany — out into the field for on-the-spot feedback to combat units.

For years, the Army has used observer-controllers, or O-Cs, at training centers to serve as peer coaches and part evaluators as units rotated through weeks-long combat simulations. The cornerstone of those exercises are periodic "after-action reviews" where O-Cs and troops at all levels dissect what was done right and wrong and ways to improve.

"When you're in the middle of a fight, it's hard to take a few steps back like that," said Wallace. "But that's the way we train, so why can't we apply that culture to the war?"

As far as Wallace is concerned there's no reason not to.

"I think commanders would relish the notion of having someone out there to help them get better," he said.

Plus, he added, by rotating O-Cs out into the combat zone "they'll bring more up-to-date view of the battlefield back to the training centers."

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Comrades remember soldier killed in Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

If you served in the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, you couldn't escape the sly grin and frequent razzing of Spc. Joshua Justice Henry.

"Josh could always be seen with a smirk on his face, usually thinking of his next wisecrack toward one of his buddies or whoever was in his line of fire," said Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, the battalion



Henry, of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, always had a smile on his face despite the chaotic situation that surrounded him in Iraq.

commander.

Dozens of friends gathered Tuesday in a chapel at the unit's home base in Schweinfurt, Germany, to remember the gregarious ex-football lineman, who died Sept. 20 in a firefight in the village of Hani, Iraq.

"Most of us only have a small group that we consider friends," said his buddy, Cpl. Aaron Shofield, in brief remarks read at the service, "but Henry was the one guy who was a friend to everyone."

Henry grew up in Apollo, Pa., a small town near Pittsburgh. He was a center and defensive tackle on his high school's undefeated football team in 2000, according to the Indiana Gazette, his hometown newspaper, and also excelled at baseball and swimming.

He joined the Army just two weeks before terrorists crashed planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in southwest Pennsylvania 70 miles from his home.

After four months of training at Fort Sill, Okla., Henry landed in Schweinfurt with the 1-7 Field Artillery. In 2002, he spent six months with his unit in Kosovo,

manning a howitzer and pulling force-protection duty at camps Montith and Bondsteel. He helped his section win Top Gun honors in the battalion.

Since arriving in Iraq last February, Henry had joined more than 200 combat missions as part of Battery A's sniper team. He also served as a gunner in an artillery platoon.

In a tribute read at Tuesday's service, McClelland described him as "a dedicated and highly motivated warrior, an expert marksman, a sniper and one of our absolute best."

On his last mission, Henry and several others from Battery A formed a patrol to give security at a

meeting of the city council in the town of Ash Shargat, about 70 miles west of Kirkuk.

On the way home, McClelland said, the patrol ran into a fire ambush at Hani. Between 10 and 15 insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns, small arms and mortars at the convoy.

Hit first under the arm and then in both legs, McClelland said, Henry kept shooting throughout the 15-minute firefight until his bat-

"Most of us only have a small group that we consider friends. But Henry was the one guy who was a friend to everyone."

Cpl. Aaron Shofield
Friend



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Courtesy of U.S. Army

Spc. William Champion kisses the dog tags of Spc. Joshua Justice Henry as he says goodbye to his deceased friend at a memorial service Tuesday in the base chapel at Schweinfurt, Germany.

tle buddies pulled him out of the line of fire and arranged for his evacuation. The unit killed at least four enemy fighters.

"Josh was taken from us that day," McClelland said, "but he went down fighting—as we would all expect him to."

Henry was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple

Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal. His body was returned to the United States, where the Gazette reported he will be buried with military honors.

He is survived by his parents, Larry and Perri Henry, four sisters and two brothers.

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Sgt. Maj. Steven Sabashin, right, talks with Polish Army Capt. Treneusz Jankowski, who served in Iraq, about his experiences in the war at the USAREUR Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany, on Tuesday. A major focus of the expo this year is the lessons the military has learned from toppling Saddam Hussein's regime and battling insurgents in Iraq.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes



Expo: Forces turning focus to lessons learned in Iraq war

EXPO, FROM PAGE 6

The war in Iraq, now 1½-years-old, has taught the U.S. military many lessons on the fly, Wallace said.

Among them:

■ The ability to fight an enemy that doesn't fight fair, such as by blending in with civilians and using human shields, and hiding personnel and military assets within sensitive sites such as mosques, hospitals and schools, and using public communications to coordinate operations.

■ The need to focus training on combat in a downtown environment such as Baghdad. "How does a battalion or brigade operate in an urban environment?" he asked.

■ Rethink the time spent on teaching gunnery skills. "We haven't run into a tank lately, at least not one with anybody on board," Wallace said.

■ Improve coordination and timing between the

fighters and their suppliers. "It took 3rd Infantry Division 20 days to get repair parts once it got to Baghdad," Wallace said.

In future engagements "we're going to be fighting and flowing at the same time," Wallace said. "Someone has to be in charge of the fighting, and someone has to be in charge of the flowing, but eventually they have to come together."

Wallace praised the adaptability of soldiers who have been serving downrange. Their ability to go from tankers to foot soldiers and back again, for example, has shown the need for military units to be more flexible.

"Non-standard organizations specifically designed for the task at hand will be more frequently seen in the future than in the past," Wallace said.

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Navy: Aviator error cause of jet crash

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — An inexperienced pilot made a series of mistakes that caused his fighter jet to hit a sign, skid across a runway and burst into flames near a terminal at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, according to a Navy report.

The pilot, identified earlier as Lt. j.g. Wesley Baumgartner, bailed out when problems arose as he attempted to take off March 26.

The report, detailed Wednesday in The News & Observer of Raleigh, said the pilot made errors that sent his F/A-18 Hornet drifting off the runway and then tried to lift off, when he could have prevented the crash by aborting the takeoff.

The report said Baumgartner's inexperience and lack of understanding of how to abort a takeoff were the primary factors in the crash. Had he aborted, the Navy concluded, "he could have prevented a total loss of aircraft and had only minor damage and embarrassment."

Baumgartner, 27, remains under military examination and is no longer flying, Navy spokesman Mike Maus told the newspa-

per. He said federal law forbids the Navy from disclosing whether Baumgartner was punished.

The report said the pilot hit his head on the runway after he ejected and does not recall details of the accident.

"I remember just thinking, if I could just get it airborne, if I could just get it airborne," he told investigators, according to a transcript.

Baumgartner declined to comment Tuesday when reached by phone at his home in Virginia Beach, Va.

He was treated for scrapes and bruises. No one else was injured.

The \$40 million jet was destroyed.

The plane was assigned to the Strike Fighter Squadron 15 — also known as VFA-15, or the Valions — and based at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, Va. It was on a training mission and had stopped to refuel at RDU.

Though he was qualified to fly the plane, Baumgartner had relatively few hours in the cockpit, Maus said.

"This particular aviator was like brand new in the aircraft," he said. "He was a young aviator, still gaining experience."

IN THE STATES

Private rocket blasts off on quest for \$10M

BY JOHN ANTICK

The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — A private manned rocket soared into space for a second time Wednesday, landing successfully after an unexpectedly bumpy ride that nearly meant an early end to the team's bid to earn a \$10 million prize.

SpaceShipOne, with astronaut Michael Melvill at the controls, dropped away from its mother ship above Mojave Airport, fired its rocket and pulled into a vertical climb.

During its 81-minute flight, the ship climbed to an unofficial altitude of more than 330,000 feet — about 2,000 feet above its target altitude of 62 miles.

"Now that was fun," Melvill said after the ship completed its gliding descent and landed safely at Mojave Airport. "I thought I really nailed it."

But the craft made more than two dozen unexpected rolls during its ascent, corkscrewing upward.

SpaceShipOne designer Burt Rutan said controllers had asked Melvill to shut the engine down early because of the rolling problem, but Melvill kept going until he was certain he would reach the target altitude.



SpaceShipOne, attached to White Knight, taxis out as the Mojave Aerospace Ventures Team attempts to win the Ansari X Prize in Mojave, Calif., on Wednesday.

"We actually were asking him to go ahead and abort, to shut it off to where he wouldn't have gone [the 62 miles]," Rutan said. "He stayed in there just for a handful of seconds more."

SpaceShipOne is trying for the \$10 million X Prize, offered to whomever makes two flights 62 miles high, an altitude generally accepted as being in space, in two weeks or less.

Melvill also was the pilot in June, when the ship made its first trip into space ever by a private spacecraft. To win the X Prize,

the plane still needs to make a second successful flight within the two-week time frame.

Before Wednesday's takeoff, SpaceShipOne's creators had ambitiously set the second flight for next Monday — well before the 14-day deadline. Rutan said the roll problem would be studied and a determination made about delaying the second flight.

Melvill said he may have caused the rolling himself.

"You're extremely busy at that point," he said. "Your feet and

your hands and your eyes and everything is working about as fast as you can work them, and probably I stepped on something too quickly and caused the roll. But it's nice to do a roll at the top of the climb."

The specially designed jet with the spaceship under its belly had taken off at 7:12 a.m. from the airport in the desert north of Los Angeles and began its climb.

A crowd of VIPs watched from below the airport control tower, while journalists watched from bleachers along the runway.

Spectators, some wrapped in blankets to ward off the early morning chills, erupted in cheers as the spacecraft and its chase planes taxied down the runway.

Among those watching Wednesday's launch was Adam Smith, 14, of Vienna, Va., who said he's had an interest in space "as far back as I can remember."

Rutan, the maverick aerospace designer, secretly developed SpaceShipOne with more than \$20 million from Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen and is well ahead of two dozen teams building other X Prize contenders around the world.

The Ansari X Prize was modeled after the \$25 million prize that Charles Lindbergh won in his Spirit of St. Louis for the first solo New York-to-Paris flight across the Atlantic in 1927.

The St. Louis-based X Prize Foundation, noting the rapid development of air travel after Lindbergh's feat, hopes to inspire an era of space tourism in which spaceflight is not just the domain of agencies such as NASA.

SpaceShipOne was required to fly with a pilot and the equivalent weight of two passengers aboard, in accordance with rules requiring X Prize contenders to be capable of carrying three people.

Stewart to serve time at 'Camp Cupcake'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Celebrity home-maker Martha Stewart has been ordered to serve her sentence for lying about a stock sale at a federal prison in West Virginia known as Camp Cupcake.

Stewart had asked to serve her

five-month sentence in Danbury, Conn., close to her 90-year-old mother and her home in Westport, or as a second choice in Coleman, Fla. But the federal Bureau of Prisons instead chose Alderson, W.Va., a minimum-security women's prison that houses about 1,000 inmates.

Stewart issued a statement Wednesday confirming the prison selection.

She repeated that she had hoped to be designated to a "facility closer to my family and more accessible to my appellate attorneys."

A federal judge has ordered

Stewart to report to prison by Oct. 8.

The Alderson camp was chosen largely because of its remote location, the source said.

There was concern that the Connecticut and Florida prisons were too accessible to the media, the source said.

Storm moves up coast

The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — In storm-battered Florida, more than 3,900 people were staying in shelters Wednesday while nearly 1.3 million homes and businesses were without power.

In another sign of the toll of four hurricanes, at least one as-yet unidentified insurance company was seeking state help because it was overwhelmed by claims.

The storm's remnants also were destructive, dumping torrential rain and spawning tornadoes. In Virginia, a 51-year-old woman was swept from her mobile home and drowned after more than a foot of rain fell and turned roads into rivers.

In western Maryland, nearly a half-foot of rain fell Tuesday.

Jeanne also dumped more than 6 inches of rain in the Philadelphia area, where a woman died after floodwaters swept her from a bus stop Tuesday.

In Cherry Hill, N.J., 11 buildings and several cars were dam-



A fire hydrant shows the depth of sand in a parking lot on Hutchinson Island, Fla., on Tuesday.

aged Tuesday by a tornado that left a two-mile swath of damage. And in Delaware, the National Weather Service confirmed another tornado Tuesday night in New Castle County.

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Lava dome growing at Mount St. Helens

BY PEGGY ANDERSEN
The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — The lava dome in the crater of Mount St. Helens apparently is growing and moving slightly northward, a top volcano scientist said Wednesday.

"There seems to be some movement in the lava dome," Jeff Wynn, chief scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascade Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

The pressure could come either from a buildup of gases within the 8,364-foot mountain, which erupted with devastating force 24 years ago, or from molten rock moving into the dome, Wynn said.

Seth Moran, a seismologist at the observatory, estimated the initial movement at four centimeters, about an inch and a half.

Wynn said the movement "sort of suggests that we're getting closer" to an eruption that could hurl rocks and ash a few thousand feet into the air.

He said, however, that the estimates were highly preliminary and inexact because there is only one measuring device on



the dome, estimating scientists will need about 48 hours to interpret the data more clearly.

Scientists were keeping a close eye on the 925-foot-tall dome of hardened lava that has grown inside the crater since the May 18, 1980, eruption that blew the top off the mountain.

Swarms of tiny earthquakes — more than 1,000 since the mountain began stirring on Thursday — have gradually increased, cranking up to a level not seen since 1986, when the volcano's last dome-building eruption occurred.



Liza Fierro, holding her 9-month-old son Diego, inspects her bedroom where a dresser was knocked over and some pictures fell off the wall as a result of the 6.0-magnitude earthquake Tuesday, near Parkfield, Calif.

"There seems to be some movement in the lava dome."

Jeff Wynn
U.S. Geological Survey

California earthquake to provide important data

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL
The Associated Press

PARKFIELD, Calif. — A strong earthquake that shook central California without causing any significant damage or injuries could be a boon to researchers who hope intense scrutiny of

the state's earthquake capital may help predict future tremors.

The magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, seven miles southeast of Parkfield and 21 miles northeast of Paso Robles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. A major quake in the same area killed two people last year.

The area of the San Andreas fault where the quake struck is a seismic hot spot that has produced similar tremors every two or three decades and is among the most-monitored quake sites in the world.

"It's going to be a lot of data that we can look at," said Andy Snyder of the U.S. Geological Survey. "It ensures a good payoff for all the work that's been done by the USGS, all the university groups and foreign research institutes that have set up experiments here."

Dozens of sensors — seismometers, strainmeters, creepmeters, — dot the remote, sparsely popu-

lated region. Drilling is underway there to go 1.4 miles down into the bowels of the 800-mile-long fault that forms the boundary between immense geological plates that grind and produce ground movement.

"This will probably be the most well-recorded earthquake in history," said Mike Blanpied, associate coordinator with the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake hazards program in Reston, Va. "The jury is still out about whether the earth gives out reliable signals about whether an earthquake can be predicted."

More than 160 aftershocks followed, one with a preliminary 5.0 magnitude and four others at 4.1 or above. The initial, 10-second quake was felt along a 350-mile stretch, as far north as Sacramento and as far south as Santa Ana, southeast of Los Angeles.

Scientists put the chance of another similar or larger quake striking in the same area this week at 5 percent to 10 percent, said USGS geophysicist Andrew Michael.

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- 1714 Foundation Fighting Blindness
- 1716 Glaucoma Research Foundation
- 1712 Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International
- 1718 Hope Heart Institute, The
- 1706 Infectious Disease Science Center
- 1720 Interstitial Cystitis Association of America
- 1724 Lyme Disease Foundation
- 1745 Marrow Foundation, The
- 1721 Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute
- 1717 National Alliance for Autism Research
- 1720 National Eating Disorders Association
- 1728 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
- 1710 Prostate Cancer Foundation (formerly CAP CURE)
- 1725 United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The
- 1723 V Foundation, The

CFC# 1700

Ambassadors' panel

WASHINGTON — U.S. ambassadors should spend at least 25 percent of their time explaining American foreign policy to local audiences, a panel commissioned by the Bush administration recommends.

In a report issued Tuesday, the panel said ambassadors do not spend enough time promoting American values and culture. Many foreign service officers lack language skills, the panel found.

Ambassadors should enlist a "network of individuals interested in communicating positive concepts" to help influence public opinion abroad, the report said.

Speediest computer

NEW YORK — IBM Corp. claimed a unofficial breaking rights Tuesday as owner of the world's fastest supercomputer.

For three years running, the fastest supercomputer has been NEC's Earth Simulator in Japan.

Earth Simulator can sustain speeds of 35.86 teraflops.

IBM said its still-unfurnished BlueGene/L system, named for its ability to model the folding of human proteins, can sustain speeds of 36 teraflops. A teraflop is 1 trillion calculations per second.

From The Associated Press

Iraq illustrates candidates' differences

By ROBIN WRIGHT

The Washington Post

Iraq, the issue most likely to ignite fire in Thursday's campaign debate, has become the chief symbol of differences between presidential candidates President Bush and Sen. John Kerry.

Bush cites Kerry's positions on Iraq to portray him as an indecisive flip-flopper on strategic issues. Kerry says Iraq demonstrates Bush's arrogant misuse of U.S. power.

Iraq also best illustrates their disparate worldviews. Bush advocates pre-emptive strikes — leading alone in defiance of U.N. allies if necessary — to prevent potential future threats. Kerry gives preference to international diplomacy and collaboration — and burden-sharing of physical and financial resources — in a globalizing world.

Yet for all their squabbling on the campaign stump, both presidential candidates share a common commitment to Iraq — and have many of the same long-term goals. They've both pledged to keep U.S. troops in Iraq for years, acknowledging a medium-term stability is a prerequisite for leaving. They've both identified rebuilding the Iraqi army as the key to an eventual exit strategy. And they both accept U.S. responsibility in helping reconstruct the strag-

gic oil-rich country.

"The differences are less than meets the eye, and there's not much difference on how to handle day-to-day combat," said Geoffrey Kemp, Reagan administration national security council staffer now at the Nixon Center. "It doesn't matter who is president, they face the same short-term crisis to secure Iraq so elections can be held." The main differences, which played out on at least six key questions, are how they would achieve those goals and where Iraq fits into broader U.S. foreign policy. The most fundamental difference, which in turn shapes all other aspects of their policies, is the context of the Iraq war.

Bush says U.S. intervention was justified as part of the wider war against terrorism, an essential part of the reaction to the al-Qaida attacks Sept. 11, 2001. "My message is that we will stay the course and stand with these people so that they become free. It's in our national interest we do so. I believe this is a central part in the war on terror," Bush said in his joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi last week. "I believe that when we succeed in Iraq, that Alawi will be more secure."

Kerry, in stark contrast, says the war has undermined U.S. strategic goals and safety. "Iraq has not strengthened our national security. It has weakened it," Kerry said last week. The candidates differ slightly

On the issues

President Bush



"Even with his successes, ESA has been undermined by a flood of litigation, preventing the Fish and Wildlife Service from protecting new species and recovering plants and animals already listed as threatened or endangered. That is why my administration is providing federal grants on a competitive

How, if at all, should the Endangered Species Act protections be changed?

Sen. John Kerry



"Instead of tearing down the law, I will improve it with a national commission to examine its implementation and ways to improve it. I will increase funding to protect

habitat and work with landowners. And a Kerry-Edwards administration will encourage cooperative efforts to resolve conflicts between development and endangered species conservation."

AP

First Bush-Kerry debate on AFN

The first of three debates between President Bush and Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry will be broadcast live Friday on American Forces Network radio and television.

The debate, from the University of Miami, will begin at 3 a.m. Friday Central European Time on the AFN-Prime TV channel and on Power Network radio.

AFN will re-air the debate on the News TV channel at 7 p.m. Friday.

From staff reports

"Iraq has not strengthened our national security. It has weakened it," Kerry said last week. The candidates differ slightly

on timing. Bush has made an open-ended commitment to Iraq, while Kerry calls for U.S. troops to be departed within four years.

Campaigns set different parameters for debates

By MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

SPRING GREEN, Wis. — There is a lot of fine print in the document spelling out rules for the debates between President Bush and Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry. When the first of the three debates starts Thursday, the candidates will wait for a cue from the moderator and then "proceed to center stage, shake hands and proceed directly to their positions behind their podiums."

Those lecterns must be set 10 feet apart and equally centered to ward center stage, measuring 50 inches tall from the audience's eye and 48 inches tall to the writing surface on the candidates' side.

Each side hopes the rules give them a slight advantage and their opponents a disadvantage. For example, could the wide distance between podiums obscure the 5-inch height difference between the 6-foot-4 Democrat and the 5-foot-11 Republican? The Bush campaign's communications director, Nicole Devenish, said the president's team negotiated for rules that would make it clear if Kerry was breaking the rules, like time limits im-

posed on the candidates' answers reinforced with timing lights visible to the debate audience and television viewers.

The aim was "to create an even playing field for the president who has far less experience debating, than his opponent who is essentially a career debater," she said. "The other objective was to curtail grandstanding and filibustering, something many great debaters rely upon."

That comment has something to do with another pre-debate tactic — lowering expectations for your candidate so his performance will seem better. In fact, survey found a majority of people expect Bush to win the debates.

Kerry officials said they fretted little about details but insisted the candidates hold a town hall-style forum. They think Kerry will hold the advantage when the two candidates take questions and the candidates voted at the second debate on Oct. 8.

"I think what's most significant about the debates is, for the first time in four years, George Bush is going to have to answer questions about his record," said Kerry spokesman David Gode.

"For the first time, he'll have to get by with more than a wink, a smile and a swagger."



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—M. Hall

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Clinton to speak

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Former President Bill Clinton has confirmed his first public appearance since his heart surgery three weeks ago — a speech at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, on Nov. 9.

Clinton will appear in Arkansas at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting on Nov. 16, two days before he opens his library and one week after he fulfills a promise to speak at the New York college.

Clinton's appearances settle the uncertainty about whether his health would allow him to participate in weeklong celebrations in conjunction with the opening of the library.

The announcement did not address Clinton's availability to campaign for presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, which Democrats are hoping he will be able to do.

Clinton's spokesman Jim Kennedy said it is still too early to gauge Clinton's ability to travel before the Nov. 2 election.

The Nov. 18 dedication of the \$165 million presidential library and park is expected to draw more than 20,000 people.

President Bush and all the living former presidents, along with many foreign leaders, have been invited.

Clinton, 58, underwent quadruple bypass surgery in New York City on Sept. 6 after complaining of chest pain and shortness of breath.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Russia considers plans to create terrorism warnings

BY MARA D. BELLAMY
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia is considering plans to institute a terrorism warning system and teach the public to respond more effectively to terror threats, Russia's security chief said Wednesday.

Igor Ivanov, the secretary of presidential Security Council, said that a threat alert system — similar to the U.S. color-coded warnings — was being considered by officials in the wake of a recent series of terror attacks including the school seizure in Beslan which together killed more than 430 people.

Russian officials have said the recent attacks — which Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev claimed credit for — are linked to international terrorism and Mos-



Ivanov

cow's response has in some cases echoed Washington's after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"As far as the degrees of threat, yes that task has been put forward,"

Ivanov said at a news conference, adding that the goal was to devise a system that combined "the characteristics of the levels of threat which might arise and the corresponding response."

The U.S. system — which has five colors ranging from green for a low risk of terrorist attack to

red for a severe risk — has been criticized by security experts for being too vague.

Ivanov said Russian officials were still working out how such a system would be conveyed to the public. "Maybe by color, maybe by number, maybe something else," he said.

Another measure under consideration is a plan to teach civilians how to respond better to terrorism.

Moscow's response to the terror attacks has ranged from President Vladimir Putin's call to overhaul the electoral system to give the Kremlin more control to a rash of new bills now being considered by parliament, which include tightening controls on foreigners, toughening up the criminal code and giving security organs broader power.

Tropical storm blows Japan away



A Japanese woman hangs on to a tree as she battles strong wind and rain in Kila-Kyushu, southern Japan, on Wednesday. A powerful tropical storm soaked southern Japan, disrupting transportation and whipping up waves and winds that damaged homes, downed electricity lines and forced thousands to evacuate to shelters.

Libya pays delayed first installment

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Libya has paid the first installment of \$35 million after a three-week delay that raised questions over a planned visit to Tripoli by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, a lawyer who was involved in the deal said Wednesday.

Libya has assured the parties involved that on Tuesday it put through the transfer of the \$15 million which was supposed to have been made Sept. 8, attorney Ulrich von Jeinsen said.

The payment came after von Jeinsen protested about the delay to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif el-Islam, whose foundation negotiated the deal with German lawyers.

"The Gadhafi Foundation had to deal with significant bureaucratic obstacles and unexpected technical problems at the state bank," von Jeinsen said in a statement. Further payments of \$15 million and \$5 million will be made Dec. 1 and March 1.

Lawyers are seeking separate compensation in U.S. courts for American victims of the bombing.

Defense of suicide bombings debated

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — A leader of one of Norway's most respected Islamic groups defended the use of suicide bombings in certain cases, stirring a debate Wednesday in a country that sees itself as a beacon of peace and nonviolence.

Reaction was so strong that the foreign minister took the rare step of condemning the statement.

On the discussion boards of the Islamic Association of Norway's Web site, a reader asked whether Islam permitted suicide attacks. The answer — that it sometimes does — sparked concern and incredulosity.

In his reply, Basim Ghazlan, one of the association's leaders, said that suicide is generally forbidden by Islam, but he added that if it is done during war, and it is the only option, then it could be done.

He also wrote that suicide attacks should not harm innocent bystanders, singling out the deaths in Iraq of civilians there.

But it was his tacit endorsement of the suicide bombings waged by Palestinians against Israeli settlers and soldiers that drew harsh condemnation. Norway's home of the Nobel Peace Prize, was a key player in trying to bring peace to that region.

When reached by telephone, Ghazlan said he stood by his remarks, but added that the reaction was strong because, in part, his remarks were misinterpreted. Norway's small Muslim community — less than 1 percent of the country's 4.6 million residents — moved to distance itself from the remarks.

Foreign Minister Jan Petersen deplored Ghazlan's statement, which he said "portrays suicide bombings as a legitimate means of dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian issue."

Seven killed in Afghanistan gunbattle

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban militants crept up to an Afghan government outpost under cover of darkness early Wednesday and launched a gunbattle that left four attackers and three Afghan troops dead, police said.

Elsewhere, an explosion killed a motorcyclist in what an Afghan commander suggested was a botched suicide attack, and U.S. troops skirmished with insurgents near the Pakistani border.

The violence comes in the run-up to Afghanistan's Oct. 9 presidential election, which insurgents are trying to derail.

Two Abu Sayyaf leaders escape

MANILA, Philippines — Two Abu Sayyaf leaders wanted by Washington escaped from a series of assaults by U.S.-trained forces in clashes that killed a Philippine marine and wounded an undetermined number of rebels in the south, officials said Wednesday.

Raduan Salim, his son Ismail, and dozens of followers eluded military forces who assaulted their encampments in the mountainous jungles of Patikul from Friday to late Monday, army Brig. Gen. Augustino Damaala said.

One marine was killed and seven others injured, said Damaala, who helped supervise the operations on Jolo island.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION

U.S. voters know enough to make an impact

Voters don't know too about public affairs, say any number of commentators. The evidence they cite is other than spare.

Surveys show most Americans have no idea who represents them in Congress. Large numbers think the Constitution promises employment to those who want it. Forget it if you think many can tell you the Supreme Court's chief justice is. Ask voters about a prescription-drug bill passed this year, and 70 percent draw a blank.

The ignorance is truly overwhelming, and so is the moment's fretting about it. After all, Nov. 2 is bearing down on us. Good grief, think the Kerry supporters, the fools out there may give the presidential prize to George W. Bush. Heaven help us, think the Bush supporters, the idiots may be taken in by John Forbes Kerry.

But if the anxiety is misplaced because of an Election Day being widely described as hugely important, there is nothing new about democracy-doubting. Scott back to the 1920s, for instance, and there you find the great journalist Walter Lippmann worrying about those Americans who are "feebled, grossly neurotic, undernourished and frustrated." It seemed to him that the "stream of public opinion is stopped by them in little eddies of misunderstanding, where it is discolored with prejudice and far-fetched analogy."

The average American, he is quoted as

saying, has no idea of what is happening in public affairs, doesn't care and is therefore easy picking for "the quack, the charlatan, the jingo."

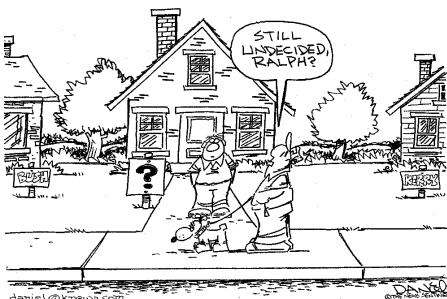
Was Lippmann himself, then, incapable of error? Of course not. Flubs pursued even this brilliant man. Nor should anyone suppose his briefly entertained solution was on target: the creation of "intelligence bureaus" of social scientists who would figure things out and inform the public of the truth.

In a sense, we now have those bureaus — we call them think tanks — and what they regularly prove is that experts can be as much a captive of ideological prejudice as non-experts. These experts regularly disagree with each other, meaning that some of them must be regularly wrong, although right and wrong in politics is not the same as in arithmetic.

And, by the way, some rather convincing social scientists have been saying in recent years that the public is rational — that voters can, in fact, be trusted.

Two big names on the issue are Benjamin Page and Robert Shapiro. I discovered through electronic-library research. They examined massive amounts of data from 1935 to 1990, and their conclusion is that public opinion taken as a whole is coherent. Most Americans buy into a consistent scheme of values. They do take note of news and react intelligently to it.

Still other respected statistical explorers concur that voters in the aggregate have a grasp of social realities and a concept of the common good. Over time, these voters figure out what works and vote that way. But not always. Democracy is a great good, but scarcely infallible. As the 19th-century philosopher John Stuart Mill helped ex-



plain, majority rule is a form of public self-protection: Those in power should be "delegates" to the people, "removable at their pleasure." Because government might otherwise abuse its ability to prey on them. Mill simultaneously understood that the majority itself can be tyrannical. The greater number can oppress the smaller number.

What to do? In the United States, we have found some answers. We have a Bill of Rights in the Constitution, and consequently it takes more than a simple majority to steal our liberties. We have checks and balances. And most of our policy decisions are made through representatives in legislative bodies, not by a vote of citizens

focused on their own jobs and lives.

The British statesman Edmund Burke knew in 1774 what we keep rediscovering — that these representatives should reject the role of mirror to a public that may be lost on given issues. "Your representative," he said, "owes you, not his industry only, but judgment, and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."

A better educated public? Sure. We all want that. But let's keep in mind as we hope for such advances that the public is neither reliable as is, and that we have so hedged democracy as to keep ourselves safe from ourselves when majority opinion goes awry.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

‘This column brought to you by Snickers’ isn’t funny

Let us now skewer a new advertising-industry technique for so thoroughly concealing itself as to trick us into believing some ads don't exist. The trickery I'm referring to is called "product placement."

Bonnie Erbe

The average American consumer is pounded daily by ads in newspapers, on television, on radio, at bus stops and train stations, via roadside billboards, in Internet pop-ups and recorded telemarketing spiels. Ads, ads — they're everywhere. But a much more venal form of capitalism's unwanted stepchild (the relentless pitch) has grown in use and efficacy to the point where advertising as we know it is falling from favor.

Product placement is a more venal (and subliminal) pitch mode.

Advertisers traditionally procure an annoying but nonetheless legitimate marketing segment that is separate and distinct from the entertainment vehicle in which it airs. Now, advertisers have found they might penetrate your subconscious all the more stealthily by placing products in the content portions of those programs.

This mendacious trend apparently started in the movies. One of the earliest examples dates back a half-century when, HowStuff-Works.com notes, "Gordon's Gin paid to have Katharine Hepburn's character in 'The African Queen' toss loads of its product overboard. Since then, there have been countless placements in movies.

In fact, surreptitious sales pitches are so ubiquitous, the trailer for the movie "Josie

and the Pussycats" spoofed the practice. It squeezed "placed" products from all the following companies into a two-minute time frame, according to HowStuffWorks.com: "America Online, American Express, Bebe, Billboard Magazine, Bugles, Campbell's Soup, Coke, Entertainment Weekly Magazine, Evian, Ford, Gatorade, Kodak, Krispy Kreme, McDonald's, Milky Way, Motorola, Pepperidge Farm Cookies, Pizza Hut, Pringles, Puma, Ray-Ban, Sega, Starbucks, Steve Madden, Target and T.J. Maxx."

Not all placements are purchased. Some come in exchange for providing a studio or network with props at the last minute. Yes, so cunning and sadly successful is the scheme, it has expanded beyond Hollywood. At least in movies, it could be argued, no consumer so much as expects reality, honesty or even, most times, intellectual rigor.

Now advertisers are venturing into other

media. A recent Wall Street Journal interview promoted a rising network executive star who gushed shamelessly about her cross-platform product-placement powers (the woman is in charge of placing products on a variety of co-owned broadcast and cable networks as well as other media).

Call me crazy, but I prefer to know when I'm some ad agency's target of opportunity. I need to know so I can ignore the message, vent my resentment and go out of my way not to patronize the brand or product that invaded my space. I need to know so I can buy the generic version (if one's available).

Then I'm secure in the knowledge no one's exaggerated the capabilities of my small-dollar purchase (cleans all surfaces, relieves cold symptoms, etc.). I rest easier knowing my money is not subsidizing the exorbitant salary of some Madison Avenue sorcerer who is owed as little toward that prod-

uct's success as the Wizard of Oz was for getting Dorothy back to Kansas and we all know the cartoon was pulled on the Wizard's lame charman, too).

Major advertisers are beginning to understand that consumers don't trust ads. Some are shifting resources toward more hidden product placement or feel-good promotion.

The Gallup Organization noted in a 2002 Web posting, "There is mounting evidence that leading companies may be questioning the role of advertising and the amounts they have been spending on it."

As that happens, we as consumers and as targets need to be on guard for the barrage of hidden sales pitches, so we can inure ourselves to them, as we are inuring ourselves to the obvious ones.

Ty host Bonnie Erbe writes this column for Scripps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





A Haitian woman asks for water and food as she waits near a food distribution center for victims of Hurricane Jeanne in Gonaïves, Haiti.

Bosnia bomb threat

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Police evacuated employees of the Bosnian Serb presidential palace on Wednesday after receiving a call saying a bomb was planted inside. Authorities said later it was a false alarm.

An anonymous caller told police an explosive device was planted inside the Bansk Dvor building in the center of Banja Luka, which houses the Bosnian Serb presidency and Bosnian Serb television. Several hours later, Mutic announced the threat was false.

Anti-terrorism cooperation

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Dutch officials agreed Wednesday to tighten cooperation in terror cases as senior European officials prepared for a two-day conference expected to focus on terrorism and contentious plans to keep asylum seekers at camps overseas.

Ashcroft was to sign two bilateral accords to bring the U.S.-Dutch extradition treaty up to date and facilitate the transfer of terror suspects. The accords also will enable trans-Atlantic video conferencing so authorities can interview suspects abroad. A similar treaty will be signed with France on Thursday, officials said.

African debt report

GENEVA — African countries are sinking deeper into the red and creditors should cancel the continent's debts to give it a chance to meet global poverty reduction goals, the United Nations said in a report.

Africa requires a minimum economic growth rate of 7.4 percent to stand a chance of achieving the global body's Millennium Development Goals, which include cutting poverty in half by 2015, said the report Thursday by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development.

Russia to OK Kyoto

MOSCOW — The Russian Cabinet will approve ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

Moscow has wavered on ratification of the 1997 protocol, which can go into force only with Russian ratification. President Vladimir Putin vowed to speed up the ratification process in May in return for European union approval of Russia's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

From The Associated Press

Chaos plagues Haiti relief

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GONAÏVES, Haiti — Victims who lost relatives, homes and belongings in Tropical Storm Jeanne are now tormented by street gangs who attack food convoys, raid homes at night and shoot those who get in their way.

The failure of Haiti's U.S.-backed government to disarm the gangs that helped oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has further jeopardizes lives after the calamity Jeanne visited on Gonaïves 10 days ago.

"There's a big problem with gangs," the security chief of the U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti, John Harrison, said.

On Tuesday, he was looking for safe places to distribute food and stopped at the port, where he found armed men.

"I think things could get worse," he said.

While plane loads of aid have arrived from around the world, getting it to the people who need it has become the hard part.

The entrance to the city has been a flashpoint for looters but was being secured Tuesday by Uruguayan troops in the U.N. peacekeeping force.

The United Nations rushed 150 more soldiers to Gonaïves on the weekend to reinforce some 600 peacekeepers already in the city.

Brazilian Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, in charge of the U.N. force, said Monday he has only 3,000 of the 6,700 troops he needs and could use more help from Haiti's police force.

On Tuesday, police from Haiti's demoralized, ill-equipped force passed a water truck as looters chucked bottles to a gleeful crowd that followed. They did nothing.

Officials say more than 1,500 people have died and 900 are missing since the storm.

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Terror protection for sale at Vienna exhibition

A pair of anti-mine boots are just one of the many items on display at Vienna's former stock exchange Tuesday. Exhibitors, such as Roman Rost, showed off the latest equipment meant to combat terror.



BY GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — In Vienna's old stock exchange building, the ornate chandeliers and the pianist playing a Schubert sonata might have been from another era.

But the merchants gathered there Tuesday were right up to date — selling surveillance devices, dirty-bomb detectors and boots designed to withstand anti-personnel mines.

Rob Clarey hefted one of his anti-mine boots in his right hand.

"It works," he said proudly. "We tested it on real legs." The limbs, he said, were provided by the medical faculty of a Vienna university.

To his left, Joachim Goetzloff fielded questions about his contribution to making our world safer — jump suits designed to repel SARS, radioactivity and chemical and biological attack. Just a few steps away, Roman Rost ex-

plained the finer points of his dirty-bomb detector — "sets up quickly, using the existing infrastructure at hand."

The companies represented in the ballroom of the venerable building were dealing in a very modern commodity — the fears sown by the post-Sept. 11, 2001, world of terrorism, pandemics and organized crime.

Hundreds of similar trade fairs are held each year, all over the world. But — like the one in Vienna — they are by invitation only, with organizers keen to keep the cutting edge technology being displayed out of the wrong hands.

Twenty-four exhibitors in Vienna displayed wares ranging from the relatively basic modified hiking boot that is meant to stop anti-personnel mines, to supposedly undetectable fiber-optics microphones and attaché-case-sized scanners built to find bugs and other surveillance devices used by the bad guys.

Rost said fears of terrorism and criminality meant continued big dividends to all in the room in the years to come.

"Unfortunately, business is booming," Rost said.

Pilots attacked

OSLO, Norway — An Algerian asylum seeker on a commuter plane in northern Norway attacked both pilots and a passenger with an ax as the aircraft was landing Wednesday, police said.

The injured pilots were able to land the Kato Air Dornier 228 safely in the northern town of Bodo after passengers subdued the attacker, police and witnesses said.

The attacker, a man in his 30s whose name was being withheld, was arrested after the plane landed, police official Bjarte Walla told The Associated Press. Seven passengers were on board.

Beer collaborators

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union on Wednesday fined French dairy Groupe Danone and Dutch beer giant Heineken NV \$3 million for colluding to control the wholesale beer market in France.

The two were involved in an acquisition war of drinks wholesalers to strengthen their distribution networks in the hotel, restaurant and cafe markets.

In March 1996, the companies agreed to an "armistice" to control costs. As part of the agreement, Danone and Heineken agreed to temporarily stop acquisitions and distribute equal volumes of total and branded beers through their networks.

Paternity tests on rise

BEIJING — Requests for paternity tests are surging in Beijing as suspicious husbands check on their wives' faithfulness at a time of rapidly shifting sexual attitudes, a government news agency reported Tuesday.

The number of DNA tests on infants at Chaoyang Hospital, a major hospital in the Chinese capital, have jumped up 20 percent over the past year to 200 as of mid-September, China News Service reported.

From The Associated Press



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Smoking at 108

MT GREAT FALLS — A 108-year-old man has taken up smoking again, encouraged by gifts of cigars from as far away as London.

Retired railroad worker Walter Breuning spoke at his birthday party of how he reluctantly quit smoking cigars at the age of 99 because he couldn't afford them.

After his story was widely distributed, the Great Falls man heard from people like the English cigar fan who sent two Havanas.

"They were \$12 cigars and they were good," Breuning said. "You can't get good Havana cigars like that out here."

He also got a birthday note and a framed cigar from a former Great Falls resident now living in Oregon.

"They were pretty good cigars, too," Breuning said. Fred Aimi, of Lolo, was reading newspaper stories to a group of blind neighbors when he came across an account of Breuning's birthday. "That hurt," Aimi said. "I like a good cigar myself."

Aimi said he sent a box of two dozen cigars to Breuning. "At 108, they can't do him much harm," he said.

Purr-fectly great gift

GA ATHENS — The University of Georgia's veterinary school has something to purr about thanks to a \$2 million gift.

Tom and Dorothy Morris, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., picked the school as the recipient of their entire estate because their favorite veterinarian, William Meriwether, went to school there.

"Since they had no children, I think they just wanted to leave their money to animals," said Peter Arnold, the deceased couple's nephew and representative of the estate.

Dr. Morris died in the 1980s, and Dorothy Morris passed on in 2003.

Their bequest will turn into a \$90,000 a year trust for students working toward a doctorate of veterinary medicine and Ph.D. simultaneously, said Dot Sparer, public relations coordinator for the veterinary school.

Meriwether said he had no idea the Morrises would leave such a large gift.

"I thought maybe they'd give a few thousand dollars — but \$2 million? God gracious!" he said.

Running for the record

MN ST. CLOUD — Jay Johnson is about to run himself into the record books.

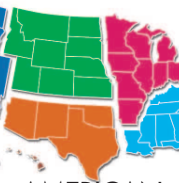
If he competes in next month's 26.2-mile Portland Marathon in Oregon, he will have completed a 10-year goal of running a marathon in all 50 states.

Johnson, 44, has overcome aches, pains and sickness to approach the rare feat.

"My body's been able to withstand it. The running gods have been on my side," Johnson said.

If Johnson makes it, he'll join a list of at least 167 others who have run a marathon in 50 states. That's according to the 50 States Marathon Club, which tries to chart such accomplishments.

"In many people in the world can run a marathon, much less run a marathon in every state in the country," said Bob Kovelie, 51,



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

treasurer of the St. Cloud River Runners Club. "It's an incredible achievement."

Johnson would be the seventh-youngest person to accomplish the feat and one of a handful from Minnesota, according to the club.

"Most of them are retired folks," Johnson said.

With the 50-state goal in reach, what's next? Running a marathon on each continent, of course.

Teeing off in Iraq

TX HUNTSVILLE — Some people who believe Iraq is just one big sand trap now have some tools to tackle the terrain.

A local resident, Doug Murdock, was inspired to collect golf clubs and balls for servicemembers after hearing that the son of his friend, Claude Dance from Shreveport, La., had been sent to Iraq.

"Prior to his son going, Claude had seen that some of the troops were making makeshift golf courses. They would round up clubs and balls and play golf," Murdock said. Before long, buckets full of clubs and balls were being donated and gathered at the Elkins Lake Golf Course.

Care package organizer Joe Peery attributed the response to the community's support of the troops in Iraq.

"I didn't think we'd get quite that many clubs, but I knew we'd get some," Peery said.

Servicemembers in their spare

time have shaped their own makeshift small golf courses — some of them up to six holes — in the Iraqi desert.

"I've heard about them laughing and cutting up, saying you've got to be able to hit out of sand traps to play this course," Peery said. "We just kind of started this wanting to give them something to do. A little diversion of any kind is a pretty good deal."

A first for airman

NH NEWINGTON — New Hampshire National Guard Airman Emily Cole was named the 2004 First-Term Airman of the Year by the Air Force Sergeants Association. It's the first time the award has gone to someone who's not an active-duty member of the Air Force. Cole, 21, works as an intelligence journeyman at Pease Air National Guard Base.

Fatal alligator bite

FL FORT MYERS — A 20-year-old woman died after an alligator bit off her arm as she apparently went for a late-night swim in a lake near her grandparents' house, authorities said.

The body of Michelle Reeves was found by her father in a lake near a residential area, sheriff's spokeswoman Ileana LiMarzi said. Reeves and her father had come from Georgia to visit her grandparents, she said.

Reeves' right arm was bitten off at the elbow and she had puncture wounds on her left arm and upper body, LiMarzi said.

Reeves' father began searching for her around 10 a.m. and found his daughter's nightgown near the lake. He then called sheriff's deputies, and he found the body after they arrived.

The victim had "made several remarks to her family during the day that she wanted to go swimming in that lake," LiMarzi said.

State wildlife officials said an alligator was removed from the area.

Man stabbed in subway

NY NEW YORK — A 45-year-old man stepped off a subway train in lower Manhattan with seven stab wounds to his chest and back, and died shortly after collapsing on the platform, police said.

The man, whose name was not released, had been riding a northbound N train when he stumbled onto the platform at the Rector Street station at about 4:40 a.m., police said. He was taken to New York University Downtown Hospital and pronounced dead at 5 a.m.

No weapon was recovered and no arrests have yet been made.

The train was taken to Ditarman Yards in Queens for further investigation, said Officer Jennara Everlett, a police spokeswoman.

Body may be student

AR MELBOURNE — A body found in Izard County is likely that of missing college student Rebekah Gould, state police said.

Gould, 22, was last seen Sept. 20 and was reported missing the next day. Searchers found the body at the bottom of a 35-foot embankment off State Highway 9 about 4.5 miles south of Melbourne, state police spokesman Bill Sadler said.



A long way to go Judy Enello cuts apples for pies at the Dummerston Congregational Church in Dummerston, Vt., while preparing for the Dummerston Apple Pie Festival, slated for Oct. 10. Volunteers from throughout the area spend many days and evenings peeling apples and making hundreds of pies for the annual event, which is the church's primary fund-raiser.



Sidewalk challenge Junior Mota, left, watches as Christian Mota, center, and Jim Padilla play a game of chess on the sidewalk in Ridgewood, in the Queens borough of New York.



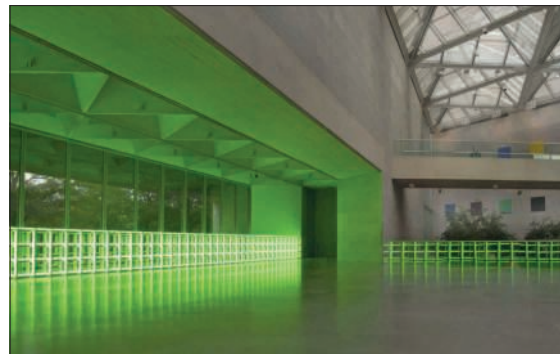
Waiting for new home A statue of Jesus rests against the wall of a small evidence room at the Eagle Pass Police Department in Eagle Pass, Texas. The religious icon was found floating on the Rio Grande a few weeks ago by the U.S. Border Patrol. It was turned over to the police to be held in the evidence room for 90 days. Several religious groups have expressed interest in the icon.



Welcome home, daddy Sgt. Robert Foote, of Hampton, Va., is reunited with his 3-year-old twin daughters, Chyanna, left, and Chasity, after being deployed in Iraq for six months with the 3rd FAST (Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team) Company Marines at the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Army at Camp Allen in Norfolk, Va.



Blessing Gabriel Brianna Mintz, 7, nuzzles her kitten, Gabriel, as he is blessed by the Rev. Richard C. Vaughan at Camp United Methodist Church in Shalotte, N.C.



Lighting the way An untitled art installation by Dan Flavin lights up in the East Building of The National Gallery of Art in Washington. Instead of canvas and paint, Flavin created art with ordinary fluorescent light tubes, a technique that made him an important figure in the experimental art world of the later 20th century. The National Gallery is showing the first U.S. retrospective of his career.

Fire stats alarming

MA BOSTON — The state fire marshal said that smoke alarms were missing in nearly half of Massachusetts' fatal fires in 2002.

"One-third of these cases were due to disabled smoke alarms. The other two-thirds did not have any smoke alarms at all," said Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan of the 55 fatal fires that year.

"These people mistakenly thought fire wouldn't happen to them."

The total number of fires in 2002, according to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System, was 27,380, down 2 percent from the year before. The reporting system said 62 civilians and one firefighter were killed in those blazes, an increase of 5 percent from 2001.

Smoking continued to be the leading cause of fatal fires, dating back to the 1940s. In 2002, smoking caused 40 percent of fires in Massachusetts, and 39 percent of those that caused fatalities, Coan's office said.

The leading cause of fires in the home in 2002 resulted from cooking, and 49 percent of all residential fires originated in the kitchen.

Guard expects re-up drop

ND BISMARCK — The National Guard expects a 10 percent drop in re-enlistments after units from the state spent a year in Iraq. The Guard now plans to turn its attention to recruiting, which has become more difficult since the war began. Six members of the North Dakota National Guard were killed while serving in Iraq.

Hawaii named in lawsuit

HI HONOLULU — The state has been named in a lawsuit filed by the legal guardians of a 16-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted by a guard at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. The Circuit Court lawsuit names the Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services, the correctional facility, former guard Lia Olione and two administrators. The lawsuit alleges that the state failed to protect the girl from harm and failed to immediately remove her from the facility after she reported the assault.

Mason schism continues

NC RALEIGH — North Carolina's white Masons have again chosen to continue a split with their black counterparts, voting against a resolution to officially recognize the state's historically black Masonic group. The schism dates to the days of segregation. Though both groups are open to members of all races, neither officially recognizes that the other exists.

Lobster harvest lagging

ME PORTLAND — The lobster harvest was down sharply this summer and there are no signs the catch will pick up this fall, according to lobstermen and dealers. The catch is estimated to be down 25 percent to 40 percent from last year at this time along the

ferent parts of the coast. A strong October could make up for some of the decline, but the slowdown is increasing fears that the state's 14-year lobster boom may be coming to an end.

Dry month sparks fires

IL BUFFALO — An unusually dry September in central Illinois has sucked so much moisture out of corn and soybean crops, just driving combines over them is sparking small blazes, a University of Illinois crop analyst said. Weather experts say there's little relief in sight. The first chance of rain for the area won't come until the weekend, meteorologist James Auten of the National Weather Service said.

Computer frustrates

CO DENVER — County officials vented their frustrations over a troubled welfare computer in a meeting with Gov. Bill Owens but said they would keep working on the system. The computer has been blamed for delaying food stamps, pension payments, Medicaid and other vital services for hundreds of thousands of people. Owens ordered computer to go online on Sept. 1 despite pleas from county officials who said it wasn't ready. Half a dozen county officials met with Owens for an hour and afterwards said the old system of distributing benefits was no longer usable.

Police find alcohol stash

KY GREENUP — State police confiscated more than 120 cases of beer and 100 bottles of liquor at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Greenup after troops were called to break up a fight.

Trooper Elliott Gollubue said the cache of alcohol was visible from the parking lot. Liquor sales aren't permitted in Greenup. He said an investigation is under way, and that charges of illegal possession of alcohol could be filed.

Ponderosa Ranch closes

NV INCLINE VILLAGE — Nevada's Ponderosa Ranch has faded into the sunset. The 570-acre Western theme park overlooking Lake Tahoe and made famous by the 1960s television series "Bonanza" shut its gates after nearly four decades. Thousands of people visited the park for one last snapshot of the Ponderosa and the Bonanza television show that featured the Cartwright family — Ben, Little Joe, Hoss and Adam.

Restructuring proposed

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Joe Kernan proposed sweeping changes that include creating a cabinet position to head Health and Human Services, which would consist of four separate agencies and assume all the duties of the Family and Social Services Administration.

His opponent in the Nov. 2 election, Republican Mitch Daniels, could stop any changes elected. But Daniels' campaign says he also favors changes to FSSA, including making child protection services a freestanding agency.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Comedian "out-Regises" Regis

You'd think Regis Philbin is the "Best Regis" — but not according to the Relly Awards.

Instead, comedian **Darrell Hammond**'s impersonation of Philbin was awarded Best Regis in the second annual Rellies, created by the "Live With Regis and Kelly" show, with co-host **Kelly Ripa**, to offset its lack of success in the *Daytime Emmys*.

The winners are decided by viewer votes, but the Rellies are otherwise a fun, mock-award show with statues of a *Coke* and a *Stool* — a trophy-size version of the seating that accommodates "Live" co-hosts and guests — that go to mostly self-affirming categories such as *Funnist Guest*.

Philbin had difficulty believing someone could be better at being, well, him. In fake anger, he trashed the set of the syndicated talk show when Hammond's name was announced Friday.

Other nominees for Best Regis included impersonations by **Dana Carvey**, **Tom Hanks** and **Kevin Pollack**.



Philbin

Date with an idol nets \$10,099

The winner of an eBay auction for lunch with "American Idol" runner-up **Diana DeGarmo** said he bid \$10,099 for the prize hoping the singer could lend some star power to his nonprofit organization.

Greg Halpern, 46, of Illinois placed the highest of 55 bids for the auction, which ended Friday night and benefits the Partnership Against Child Abuse.

Halpern said he wanted to bring attention to his group, People for Ultimate Kindness Toward All Living Creatures on Earth, which helps people and agencies find grant money so they can solve problems such as obesity and abuse.

Halpern said he'd like to speak with DeGarmo to gauge her interest in getting involved in his organization, although he would probably give the lunch to someone more deserving.

"Maybe what I'll do, I'll keep that lunch intact, schedule a date and go find an abused child that loves singing and would appreciate that lunch. That could be a lifetime opportunity," Halpern said.

Under the auction rules, up to four people can attend the lunch.

Famous guitarists pay tribute to Strat

Famous guitarists such as **Ron Wood** of the Rolling Stones, **Brian May** of Queen and the Eagles' **Joe Walsh** played at London's Wembley Arena in a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fender Stratocaster.

When he took the stage at the outdoor concert Friday night, **David Gilmour** of Pink Floyd brought some of the packed crowd to its feet by playing the first-ever Fender-made 001 model of the guitar.

The concert, which raised money for the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy charity, also featured guitarists **Hank Marvin** of the Shadows, **Gary Moore** of **Roxy Music** and **Genesis' Mike Rutherford**.

They made up a collaboration of big Stratocaster-playing figures in the history of rock 'n' roll spanning five decades.

Keillor to host award ceremony

NEW YORK — Garrison Keillor, the humorist and best-selling author, will host this year's National Book Awards ceremony.

"I am thrilled to be the emcee of the National Book Awards ceremony, a big night in the book world, when you get to see distinguished authors give nonchalance though they're all giddy and sweaty and their hearts are pounding," Keillor said in a statement Monday released by the awards' sponsor, the National Book Foundation.

"Someday I hope to give nonchalance myself, and meanwhile I'm thrilled to be the emcee."

The awards ceremony will take place Nov. 17 in New York.

Keillor's many books include "Lake Wobegon Days" and "The Old Man Who Loved Cheese." He also is host of the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion," which airs on public stations around the country.



Keillor

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Katie Holmes is coping

BY NANCY MILLS
New York Daily News

The gossip-mongers had just reported that "Dawson's Creek" star **Katie Holmes** had told her fiancé, actor **Chris Klein**, "I need more space," and thus they were splitting up. Turns out they were discussing buying a house.

"People talk about you, and what can you do?" Holmes, 25, shrugs. "It's like high school times one thousand."

The celebrity spotlight also shines on her character in "First Daughter," opening Friday. Playing President **Michael Keaton**'s only child, she has to cope with Secret Servicemen guarding her college dorm room, reporters chasing her around campus and students more interested in her title than who she is.

"Being in the public eye can be isolating," Holmes says. "It's hard to make friends easily. That's why I'm always on the phone with my family, trying not to think about my image."

"Part of being the youngest [of four] is that I was born with the courage to stand out because everyone else had done it already," she says. "I had to find something different."

Holmes' image is squeaky clean, though she protests that it's not wholly accurate. She grew up in Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of a lawyer and a homemaker, snagged her first movie, "The Ice Storm," while still in high school, and then landed on "Dawson's Creek."

As **Joey Potter**, the lovelorn tomboy and best friend of **James Van Der Beek**'s **Dawson Leery**, Holmes spent six years in Wilmington, N.C., where the show was shot. Their very teenage relationship formed the emotional hook of the popular series.

"It was very difficult for me to leave Wilmington, to have my little glass bubble burst and move on," she says. "I hate change. On the other hand, it was refreshing to play someone else."

That someone else is the president's daughter — poised and awkward, obedient and defiant, glib and wise.

"Katie is still accessible to young girls, but she's truly a woman," says her "First Daughter" director, **Forest Whitaker**.

"She's someone people care about and want to follow. She's not afraid to make fun of herself, and she has good comic timing."

The movie gives Holmes a chance to play an American princess, complete with beautiful dresses, ballroom dancing and happy endings.

But it's also a topical story, she says. "With all the attention on **Chelsea Clinton** and the **Bush girls**, it's a great background for the coming of age of a young girl," she says. "But this is much more of a girl's journey toward independence than 'First Daughter Goes to College.'" Holmes, who got engaged to Klein last Christmas, has already taken that journey.

"I didn't have the experience of going to college," she says.

"But for six years on 'Dawson's Creek,' I was in a high-pressure situation by myself, without having family around. That caused me to be less dependent on others."

Holmes soon decided to be the good girl.

"Fame came so quickly to the four of us ['Dawson's Creek' colleagues **Michelle Williams**, **Van Der Beek** and **Joshua Jackson**]," she says. "At first, we all resisted the idea of being role models, but young people watched us and looked up to us."

Holmes says there could be a "Dawson's Creek" reunion movie someday, but she would like to go to her high school's 10-year reunion first.

"I'm aware that some people may still be watching," she says, "but I just try to be a happy person. Fame doesn't

really change you. It brings out who you are."

Holmes plays a good girl again in the upcoming prequel "Batman Begins," opposite **Christian Bale**. "My character works in the District Attorney's office and was **Bruce Wayne**'s good friend growing up," she says.

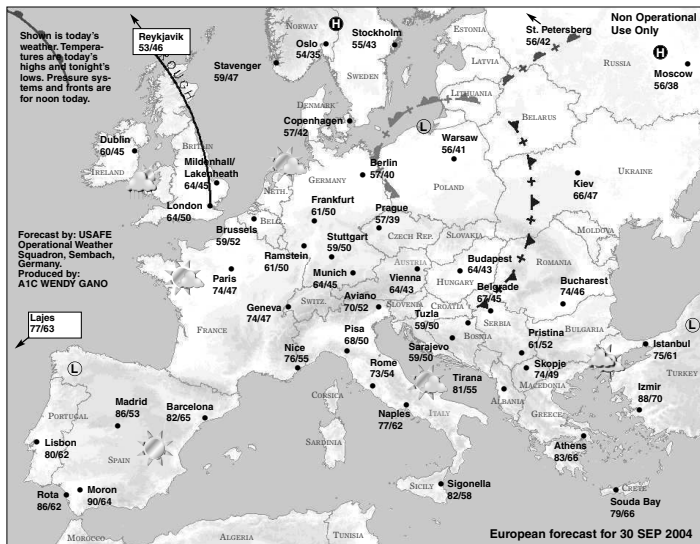
Holmes won't say whether she has a wedding date set. The longer the delay, she knows, the more room for speculation. But her other priority, having moved to Los Angeles, is staying grounded.

"Fame and adoration can be addicting," she says. "I like people to like me, so I have to really watch that. I call my mom a lot."



Actress **Katie Holmes** arrives for the *InStyle* magazine and *Warner Bros.* party after the 61st annual *Golden Globe Awards* on Jan. 25 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain early in the morning and rain showers early in the afternoon. Highs in the lower to mid 60s. Friday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with fog in the morning and isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 50s. Friday lows in the lower 50s.

France: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s to mid 60s. Friday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Friday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 60s. Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers in the morning. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Friday lows in the lower 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s. Friday lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with fog in the morning and isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower to upper 60s. Friday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Norway: Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Friday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to upper 80s. Friday lows in the lower 50s to mid 60s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s to upper 80s. Friday lows in the lower 60s to lower 70s.

AFRICA

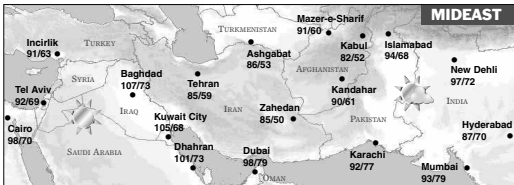
Cape Town	74	56	Mogadishu	87	75
Dakar	79	77	Nairobi	81	57
Freetown	85	74	Rabat	79	62
Algeria	86	71			

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	64	49	Moscow	80	75
Bahran	96	73	Mexico City	87	54
Beijing	62	48	Montreal	65	45
Bombay	88	73	Riyadh	100	72
Buenos Aires	84	74	Rio de Janeiro	83	67
Calcutta	83	80	Salt Lake	81	46
Chennai	82	58	Sofia	71	67
Hong Kong	81	72	Sydney	66	57
London	80	62	Tokyo	78	68

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48
Alaska	83	64	OK	68	48



MIDEAST

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <http://www.ombach.af.mil>

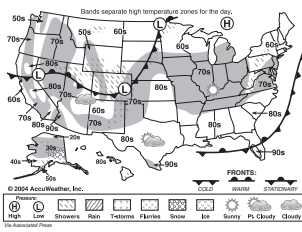
SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:47 AM	Tomorrow	6:48 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:24 AM	Tomorrow	7:25 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:20 PM	Tomorrow	6:21 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	7:09 PM	Tomorrow	7:07 PM

Full Moon	Oct 28	Last 1/4	Oct 6	New Moon	Oct 14	First 1/4	Oct 20
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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station. STARS & STRIPES. Your Hometown Newspaper.

Horoscope

The Taurus moon provides much-needed grounding. It's easy to get carried away by dreamy possibilities, which actually serve a high purpose. But a dream is nothing without a task, and a task is useless without a dream. So make sure you've got both. If you're not sure what to do next, get 10 ideas from 10 friends, and see if any of those fit.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 30) Big changes are ahead, especially in the way you make your money. You're learning more about your strengths and talents and are able to attract new ways to put those gifts to use. Commit to long-term plans in the next three weeks. Through October and November, romance is high intensity, teaching you much about your own nature.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You'll be adding to your life, most likely in a material way. Your excellent taste will help you discern between your options — there are so many. Others might be overwhelmed by the choices, but not you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Showing respect to your elders is the key to gaining position in a family or company. Of course, you can't please everyone, but you sure will try. Fussy individuals may be ill or having personal problems. Be compassionate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

It's one of those cut-off days when you feel you simply can't go one day more with a situation the way it currently stands. There's no need for drastic measures because you can make a major difference with a minor move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You're growing more attached to someone — you think of this person before you make decisions. Be careful not to give away your power. It's possible to grow close and actually become more powerful in your own right, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

A change of scene is featured — just when you were starting to get bored.

Don't worry. A wealth of drama lies ahead. Of course, you always have the option of staying completely out of it (and seldom choose that option).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You may find yourself laboring over the simplest of choices, and rightly so. Decisions you make now deserve to be thought through completely. Consult a friend before any selections are made or agreements reached.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

That long project you've been working on seems to have taken over your entire life, but the end of the road is in sight. Remedy any neglect you've suffered lately by taking it easy and sleeping as much as you really need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Get worries out of your head and onto paper. The same goes for all of those little tasks that crop up: errands, things people have requested by and phone calls. More time spent planning will help you spend less time doing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Friends are a huge help. You don't even have to ask; all you have to do is mention what you need. By the same token, be careful to accept only as much as you require and be extremely grateful. Manners count.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Many people couldn't deal with the level of business you're accustomed to. The way you keep the facts and figures straight in your head is truly amazing. You're an adviser to friends and family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your breezy attitude will attract people who want to be like you. You have no idea how chaotic some people's minds get. Maybe you won't be able to teach others to have peace like you do, but you can still be a calming influence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

There's a whimpy in your personality that is irresistible to many. When you're in a playful mood, there isn't a soul who wouldn't like to join in. Choose your company wisely, or your mood will suddenly shift to hay-don't-fail.

Creators Syndicate

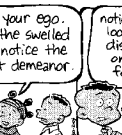
Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



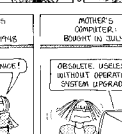
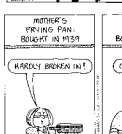
Jump Start



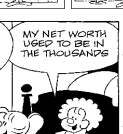
Zits



Cathy



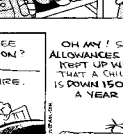
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



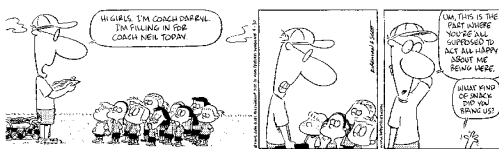
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



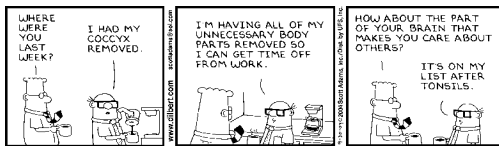
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



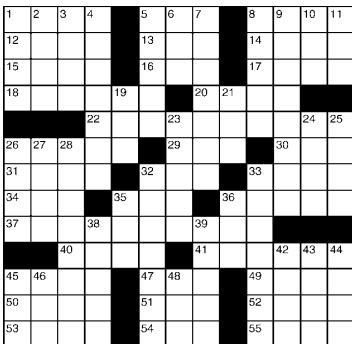
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Bubbly bandleader
- 5 Six-pack muscles
- 8 Tater
- 12 Notion
- 13 Moo — gal pan
- 14 Forum raiment
- 15 Layer
- 16 Listening device
- 17 Wan
- 18 Ancestry
- 20 Give a darn
- 22 Malfunctioning
- 26 Ain't got
- 29 Illustrations
- 30 Conk out
- 31 Capri, e.g.
- 32 What little lambs eat
- 33 Pop
- 34 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 35 Expert
- 36 "Crossfire" group
- 37 Extremoporeous
- 40 Thwart
- 41 Ornamental beetle
- 45 Stench
- 47 "Eureka!"
- 49 "Golden Girls" role
- 50 Mongrels
- 51 No Derby contender
- 52 Sacred wading bird
- 53 Commotion

Down

- 14 Ingenuity
- 2 Bowdlerize
- 3 Lecher's look
- 4 Literally, "empty orchestra"
- 5 Rep
- 6 Jungle crusher
- 7 Witchcraft
- 8 Harrison companion
- 9 Ship in a 1972 movie
- 10 "This tastes awful!"
- 11 Rotation
- 12 Duration
- 19 Powers that be
- 21 Sternward
- 23 Devastation
- 24 Ocean motion
- 25 Fervor
- 26 Wheels of fortune
- 27 Since
- 28 PBS' "Big Red Dog"
- 32 Green acres
- 33 Jungle jaunts
- 35 Greek consonant
- 36 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 38 Trunk
- 39 Grammarian's topic
- 42 Judicial garb
- 43 Largest of the seven
- 44 A-number-1
- 45 Autumnal abbr.
- 46 Pair
- 48 Dinner for Dobbin

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-30

CRYPTOQUIP

LE ONFXNWX YXUJJS IUW'G
AULG ENY U EJNAXY GN
HJNNF, INTJP SNT OUS

CX'O HTPGCLYOGS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A POOCH THAT DECIDES TO BECOME A U.S. PRESIDENT BE NAMED ROVER CLEVELAND?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L

Switching genders a tough road

Dear Abby: I have a medical condition known as gender identity disorder — more commonly called transsexualism. I have prayed every night ever since I was a young boy that God would turn me into a girl. During my teens and into adulthood, I learned to live with the constant pain of pretending to be a man when, really, all I wanted was to live my life as a woman. However, earlier this year I began the gradual process to transition from male to female.



Dear Abby

to live the rest of my life as a woman. How to tell them, and what to tell them, is causing me great distress. Any advice you can offer would be appreciated. — "Libby in the Valley"

Dear "Libby": Tell them exactly what you have told me.

Explain that this is not a whim, but the actualization of something you have felt since you were a child. Tell them that making this choice has been so difficult that it has cost you years of depression, ineffective medications, hospitalization and repeated thoughts of suicide.

Your parents and children are bound to be shocked, so be prepared for it. Answer their questions and concerns honestly.

Dear Abby: Veterans and their families might be interested to know about a new Web site: www.govbenefits.gov. It's government-sponsored, and organizes

500 federal and state benefit programs, targeting citizens into one single site. Veterans can log on, answer a few anonymous questions and find out which benefits they may be eligible to receive. It's also a helpful site for case workers, relatives or caregivers.

I answered the questions for my grandfather, a World War II veteran from 1941-'45, and discovered 21 benefit programs for which he might be eligible.

— Keith Nelson, Washington, D.C.

Dear Keith: Bless you for sharing this information with my readers. Upon further investigation, I learned that www.govbenefits.gov was created by the U.S. Department of Labor, with contributions by 10 federal agencies and several states. (There is at least one benefit in every state.) The site also includes a Spanish language version: www.govbenefits.gov/es.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 68440, St. Paul, GA 30068. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at abby@uexpress.com. <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOYTO

CEENI

DORPAY

CUMAUUV

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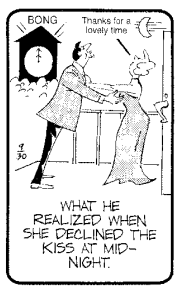
www.jumble.com

Answer: THE " " WAS " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWOON PERKY SEPTIC JACKAL

Answer: When she was "taken" by her friend's beau she was reminded that he — WAS "TAKEN"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Friend short on discussion etiquette

Dear Annie: I have a friend who cannot refrain from trying to start a private, two-person conversation while there already is a lively group conversation in progress. I also work with "Ruth," and even during meetings, she tries to start a conversation with the person sitting next to her. There never has been a meeting where her name is not sharply spoken in order to bring her focus back to the group. She never seems embarrassed about the reprimand, nor is she apologetic.

At first, I was tolerant of these asides, because I thought she really needed to address a particular concern at that precise moment.

Now I realize it's just a bad habit. She attempts these hijacking in every conversation, regardless of the topic. I lately

Annie's Mailbox



have taken to thwarting her interruptions by saying, "I'm sorry, but I can only follow one conversation at a time." I did this twice in one day, and she looked shocked and distressed.

Ruth is in her 50s, and I suspect she has ADD. I casually mentioned the possibility to her (as if I suffered from it), and we reviewed an online list of symptoms together. Although she has 90 percent of the symptoms listed, Ruth was not impressed and shrugged off the information. If I am any more direct, I'm afraid I will lose her friendship.

After 20 years of knowing this woman, she has not changed her behavior. Do you have any suggestions or advice?

— Polite Conversationalist

in Boston

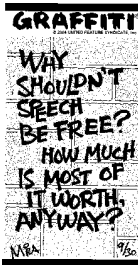
Dear Polite: Ruth may not realize she is being inappropriate, but over time, she has no doubt irritated people who are professionally and personally important to her. You were smart to frame her problem as if you also had one, so don't give up yet.

You would be doing Ruth a favor by pointing out that interruptions of this sort unintentionally alienate people, and it would be in her best interest to concentrate more on being part of the group conversation. Admit conspiratorially that this takes a lot of effort, and give her some pointers that you've "picked up." (P.S.: If you don't have the gumption to do this, be prepared to put up with her interruptions forever.)

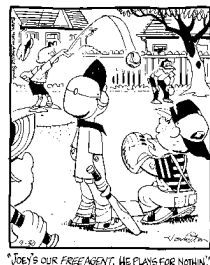
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creator's Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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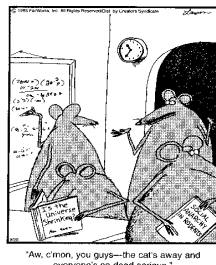
Family Circus



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



REBOARD

AFN & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 1230 a.m. - Baseball: San Francisco at San Diego.
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. - College football: Rice at Texas (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. - Baseball: Colorado at Los Angeles (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. - Baseball: Anaheim at Texas.

Friday

AFC-Atlantic, 1 p.m. - Baseball: Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees.
AFC-Atlantic, 1230 a.m. - College football: Navy at Air Force.
AFN-Sports, 430 a.m. - Baseball: Colorado at Los Angeles (Ind. in progress).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - Golf: World Foot-ball: Highlights (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - Golf: World Foot-ball: Highlights (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. - College football: Pittsburgh at Connecticut (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - College football: Navy at Air Force (Ind.).
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. - Baseball: Atlanta at Chicago Cubs.

All times Central European Time; Ind. indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	T	Pct
x-Columbus	11	0	3	.69
MetrosStars	10	1	3	.64
New England	10	3	3	.60
Chicago	8	11	3	.32
San Jose	8	11	3	.32

Western Conference				
	W	L	T	Pct
Kansas City	14	4	3	.69
Los Angeles	10	8	3	.59
San Jose	10	8	3	.59
Dallas	10	12	3	.32
San Jose	9	10	8	.32

NOTE: Tied three points for victory, one point for a draw.

Saturday's games				
Chicago at Columbus	11	0	3	.69
Dallas at New England	10	1	3	.64
United at MetroStars	10	3	3	.60
San Jose at Colorado	10	12	3	.32
Las Vegas at Los Angeles	10	8	3	.59

Sunday, Oct. 6				
Columbus at Chicago	11	0	3	.69
New England at D.C. United	10	1	3	.64
Dallas at Los Angeles	10	12	3	.32
Kansas City at San Jose	10	8	3	.59

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	T	Pct
East	2	0	1	.50
New York Jets	2	0	1	.50
New England	2	0	1	.50
Buffalo	2	0	1	.50
Miami	2	0	1	.50

South				
	W	L	T	Pct
Jacksonville	2	0	1	.50
Indianapolis	2	0	1	.50
Houston	2	0	1	.50
Pittsburgh	2	0	1	.50
Cleveland	2	0	1	.50

West				
	W	L	T	Pct
Denver	2	0	1	.50
Oakland	2	0	1	.50
San Diego	2	0	1	.50
Kansas City	2	0	1	.50

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
	W	L	T	Pct
East	2	0	1	.50
Philadelphia	2	0	1	.50
Indianapolis	2	0	1	.50
N.Y. Giants	2	0	1	.50
Pittsburgh	2	0	1	.50

South				
	W	L	T	Pct
Atlanta	2	0	1	.50
New Orleans	2	0	1	.50
Tampa Bay	2	0	1	.50

North				
	W	L	T	Pct
Detroit	2	0	1	.50
Minnesota	2	0	1	.50
Green Bay	2	0	1	.50

West				
	W	L	T	Pct
Seattle	2	0	1	.50
San Francisco	2	0	1	.50
San Diego	2	0	1	.50

Sunday's games				
Atlanta at Arizona	2	0	1	.50
Philadelphia 30, Detroit 13	2	0	1	.50
N.Y. Giants 27, Cleveland 10	2	0	1	.50
Houston 24, Kansas City 17	2	0	1	.50
New Orleans 28, St. Louis 25	2	0	1	.50
Jacksonville 15, Tennessee 12	2	0	1	.50
Baltimore 22, Cincinnati 9	2	0	1	.50
Minnesota 27, Chicago 23	2	0	1	.50
Denver 23, Oakland 13	2	0	1	.50
Pittsburgh 45, Green Bay 31	2	0	1	.50
Seattle 34, San Francisco 0	2	0	1	.50
Pittsburgh 15, Miami 3	2	0	1	.50
Oakland 30, Tampa Bay 20	2	0	1	.50
Carolina	2	0	1	.50

Dallas 21, Washington 16
 Sunday, Oct. 1
 Oakland at Houston
 Philadelphia at Chicago
 N.Y. Giants at Green Bay
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
 New England at Buffalo
 Indianapolis at Cleveland
 Minnesota at Minnesota
 Washington at Carolina
 Atlanta at Carolina
 N.Y. Giants at San Diego
 Tennessee at San Diego
 St. Louis at Dallas
 St. Louis at Dallas
 Seattle at Dallas
 Dallas at Detroit
 Minnesota at Kansas City at Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 1
 Kansas City at Baltimore
 Detroit at Atlanta
 N.Y. Giants at Dallas
 Minnesota at Houston
 Indianapolis at Cleveland
 Miami at New England
 Tampa Bay at New Orleans
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh
 Buffalo at New York Jets
 Jacksonville at San Diego
 Carolina at Denver
 Arizona at San Francisco
 St. Louis at Seattle
 Baltimore at Washington
 Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia

Monday, Oct. 11
 Tennessee at St. Louis
 St. Louis at Tennessee
 Tennessee at St. Louis
 St. Louis at Tennessee

Pro basketball

NBA playoffs

FIRST ROUND
EASTERN CONFERENCE
 Connecticut vs. Washington
Western Conference
 Seattle vs. Detroit

Second Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

Third Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

Fourth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

Fifth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
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Sixth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
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Seventh Round
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Eighth Round
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Ninth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
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 Connecticut at Washington

Tenth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
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Eleventh Round
 Washington at Connecticut
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Twelfth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
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Thirteenth Round
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 Detroit at Seattle
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Fourteenth Round
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 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

Fifteenth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

Sixteenth Round
 Washington at Connecticut
 Seattle at Detroit
 Detroit at Seattle
 Connecticut at Washington

13. Saginaw Valley St. Mich. 31- 318 13
 14. Northwest, Mich. 30- 302 15
 15. St. Cloud State, Minn. 29- 282 16
 16. Central Missouri St. 28- 259 17
 17. Tennessee, Tenn. 28- 259 18
 18. East Stroudsburg, Pa. 28- 259 19
 19. Kansas, Kan. 28- 259 20
 20. Central Arkansas 28- 259 21
 21. Indiana State, Ind. 28- 259 22
 22. Michigan Tech. 28- 259 23
 23. Wayne State, Mich. 28- 259 24
 24. Colorado School of Mines 28- 259 25
 25. South Dakota 28- 259 26

Division III Top 25

Through Sept. 26
 SPS Pts
 1. Mount Union, Ohio (38) 30 996 1
 2. Ohio, Ohio (2) 29 912 2
 3. Wheaton, Ill. 28 863 3
 4. Middlebury, Mass. 28 863 4
 5. Hardin-Simmons, Texas 28 785 5
 6. Baldwin-Wallace, Ohio 28 721 6
 7. St. Louis, Mo. 28 678 7
 8. Trinity, Texas 28 670 8
 9. W.L. John's, Minn. 28 626 9
 10. Whitewater, Wis. 28 626 10
 11. Hampden-Sydney, Va. 28 545 11
 12. Wash. & Jefferson, Pa. 28 492 12
 13. Montclair St., N.J. 28 423 13
 14. W.L. Stevens Point, Wis. 28 325 14
 15. Johns Hopkins, Md. 28 322 15
 16. Washburn, Ind. 28 273 16
 17. Salisbury, Md. 28 241 17
 18. Bowdoin, Me. 28 241 18
 19. Wooster, Ohio 28 235 19
 20. Wartburg, Iowa 28 235 20
 21. St. John Fisher, N.Y. 28 235 21
 22. Luther, Wisc. 28 235 22
 23. W.L. John's, Minn. 28 235 23

Boxing

Fight schedule
Sept. 30
 At Manhattan Center, New York, Sechew Powell, Brooklyn, N.Y., vs. George Armenta, Silver Spring, Md., 10 junior middleweights.

Oct. 1
 At Madison Square Garden, New York, Felix Trinidad, Puerto Rico, vs. Ricardo Mayaguez, Nicaragua, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 2
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Vladimir Klitschko, Ukraine, vs. David Haye, England, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 3
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 4
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 5
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 6
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 7
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Oct. 8
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Oct. 9
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Oct. 10
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 11
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 12
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 13
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 14
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Oct. 15
 At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Verno Phillips, Denver, vs. Kassim Ouma, Kenya, 12 middleweights.

Purse: \$380,000 (Tier 1 Series)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

John Tapscrow, Surfside, Conn., defeated Jano van Lottum, Netherlands, 6-1, 6-4.
 Janko Nieminen (C), Czech Republic, def. Bjorn Hugh, Germany, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Jiri Novak (C), Czech Republic, def. Lee Hyeung-Taik, South Korea, walkover.
 Ricardo Mello (7), Brazil, def. Alexander Pusch, Austria, 6-4, 6-3.

Campionati di Sicilia

Wednesday
At Century Time Club
Potteries, England
Purse: \$460,000 (Tier 1 Series)
Surfside: Hard-Outer
Singles
First Round
 Tomas Berdych (B), Czech Republic, def. Oscar Hernandez, Spain, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-1.
 Nicolas Pietrangeli (1), Chile, def. David Sanchez, Spain, 6-3, 6-2.
Second Round
 Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Fernando Verdasco (3), Spain, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.
 David Ferrer (7), Spain, def. Alex Calatrava, Spain, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2.
 Nikolay Davydenko (4), Russia, def. Marc Lopez, Spain, 6-1, 6-4.
Singles
First Round
 Galo Blanco, Spain, def. Alessio Di Mauro, Italy, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.
 Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Filippo Kohlschreiber, Germany, 3-6, 6-4, retired.
 Alex Calatrava, Spain, def. Daniel Elner, Germany, 6-1, 6-0.
 David Ferrer (7), Spain, def. Alberto Martin, Spain, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.
 Rafael Nadal (6), Spain, def. Nestor A. Pasquale, Spain, 6-1, 7-5.
 Nicolas Pietrangeli (1), Chile, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
 Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Mariano Puerta, Argentina, 6-1, 6-2.
 Filippo Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 6-2, 6-3.
 Nikolay Davydenko (4), Russia, def. Victor Hanesal, Spain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.
 Potito Starace, Italy, def. Richard Gasquet, France, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-1.

Gaz de France Stars

Wednesday
At Ethias Arena
Netherlands
Purse: \$170,000 (Tier II)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
First Round
 Karolina Spasova, Croatia (4), def. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
 Denisa Chladenova (4), Czech Republic, def. Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
 Virginia Ruano Pascual, Spain, def. Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.

Tuesday
First Round
 Francesca Schiavone (7), Italy, def. Maria Santangelo, Italy, 6-2, 6-0.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Claudine Schiavone, Luxembourg, 6-3, 6-4.
 Elena Benevise, Czech Republic, def. Claudine Schiavone, Luxembourg, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Elena Camerin, Italy, def. Capucine Rousseau, France, 6-4, 6-2.
 Magdalena Maleeva (7), Bulgaria, def. Lindsay Lee-Waters, United States, 6-3, 6-3.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Filipa Krieger, Luxembourg, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Filipa Krieger, Luxembourg, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.
 Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, def. Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.
 Elena Benevise, Czech Republic, def. Elena Benevise, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.

Wednesday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
Second Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Sandra Mancini, Croatia, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Thursday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
First Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Sandra Mancini, Croatia, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Friday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
Second Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Sandra Mancini, Croatia, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Saturday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
First Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Sandra Mancini, Croatia, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Sunday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
Second Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
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 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Monday
At Olympic Park
Netherlands
Purse: \$160,000 (Tier IV)
Surfside: Hard-Outer

Singles
First Round
 Samantha Stosur (8), Australia, def. Galina Visnina (1), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo, Spain, def. Chang Hyeon, South Korea, 6-3, 6-4.
 Silvia Farina Elia (10), Italy, def. Yulia Yashina, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Sandra Mancini, Croatia, def. Tatjana Perebrynka, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
 Abigail Anagnostou, United States, def. Shinobu Asagoe (2), Japan, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Tuesday
At Olympic Park



A.J. Feeley, above, has thrown two TD passes, five interceptions and completed 55 of 97 passes for 523 yards since replacing Jay Fiedler midway through Miami's opener. Fiedler reportedly will start Sunday.

Punchless Dolphins turn to Fiedler again

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Jay Fiedler will replace A.J. Feeley at quarterback and start for the winless Miami Dolphins against the New York Jets on Sunday, a team source told The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

That's not the only lineup change: The Dolphins placed running back Lamar Gordon on injured reserve with a dislocated shoulder, which means he's out for the season.

Feeley has thrown two touchdown passes and five interceptions since supplanting Fiedler at halftime of the Dolphins' opener.

Miami is 0-3 for the first time since 1969, and last in the NFL in scoring with 23 points.

Fiedler will rejoin a lineup that has endured weekly shakeups.

Both quarterbacks have operated behind a patchwork line, and with the loss of Gordon, the Dolphins are on their fifth running

back since July, when Ricky Williams retired.

Running back Leonard Henry, a third-year pro who made his NFL debut Sunday, is expected to start against the Jets (2-0).

Fiedler, a starter the past four seasons, is more experienced and more mobile than Feeley. But Fiedler lost his job by throwing two interceptions in the first half of the opener against Tennessee.

After that game, coach Dave Wannstedt said he would go week to week deciding on a starting quarterback.

Feeley, a former Philadelphia backup acquired in a trade in March, is 55 of 97 for 523 yards this season. In Sunday's 13-3 loss to Pittsburgh, he threw two interceptions, lost a fumble on a sack and drew criticism from Wannstedt for failing to convert a sack with 2 inches needed on fourth down.

"A.J.'s young," Wannstedt said Monday. "Every game is a new adventure for him. It's the learning process."

No panic for coaches stuck at 0-3

BY CHARLES BRICKER

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Two Super Bowl-winning coaches are 0-3, but, as you might expect, there isn't

a hint of panic from either man, or any recriminations directed at his players or bloodthirsty reporters.

One of the attributes of a great coach is the ability to hold a team together through the toughest of times, and that can be done with humor, as Jon Gruden of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers showed this week.

"I think the future's so bright here you've got to wear shades," cracked Gruden after a 30-20 loss to the Raiders put Tampa Bay's moribund offense on display a third consecutive week.

It wasn't a terribly original phrase. Gruden might, in fact, have picked it up from one of those Disney World souvenir shops, near where his team con-



Dick Vermeil's Chiefs are 0-3 and play at Baltimore and Jacksonville in their next two games.

ducts training camp, the same words written below Mickey and Goofy, staring out from a T-shirt wearing dark glasses.

Then he continued: "This is as low as I have been personally. The two or three friends I have left in Tampa ... I'm sure will call me sometime today and pump me up."

Meanwhile, in Kansas City,

Dick Vermeil has only to stay the course, which he will. There's too much talent there not to make a late run to the playoffs and the key is patience. He brought in new defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham and it's going to take perhaps half a season before the Chiefs look consistently strong on defense.

They stuffed Houston's running game Sunday, did an average job against quarterback David Carr, but were beaten by a 102-yard interception return for a touchdown by Marcus Coleman and a 49-yard field goal at the end of the fourth quarter.

Panic?

Kansas City defensive end Eric Hicks laughed it off. "Panic is for college kids." Next up: Chiefs at Baltimore on Monday night and Bucs at home to the Broncos. Vermeil will stick against the run to stop Jamal Lewis, knowing quarterback Kyle Boller isn't going to hurt them. Tampa Bay will have Michael Pittman back from a three-game suspension.

Relax. It's still early.

McNair released from hospital

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair was released from the hospital Tuesday after a two-night stay with a bruised sternum.

McNair was injured late in the Titans' 15-12 loss to Jacksonville on Sunday. The 2003 co-MVP got hurt at the end of a 5-yard run when he dove forward and 312-pound Jaguars defensive tackle Marcus Stroud came down on McNair's back.

Coach Jeff Fisher said McNair will be listed as questionable for Sunday's game against the San Diego Chargers. Tuesday was an off-day for the Titans, who return to practice Wednesday.

If McNair doesn't play, Billy Volek will make his first start since rupturing his spleen in a 28-26 victory over Buffalo last December.



McNair had the same injury in 2000 and spent two nights in the hospital, but he had the team's off week to heal. When he came back, he played in only the final minutes of the game.

Bears sign QB Hutchinson

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears signed former Dallas quarterback Chad Hutchinson to a two-year contract Tuesday after Rex Grossman was lost for the season with a knee injury.

Hutchinson will begin practice Wednesday. A former St. Louis Cardinals prospect, the 6-foot-5 Hutchinson started nine games as a rookie with Dallas in 2002. Jonathan Quinn will start Sun-

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's progress for upcoming game. (See Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)

Bengals: LB Nate Webster (knee tendon) out for season.

Browns: LB Ben Taylor (torso chest tendon) out for season.

Dolphins: RB Lamar Gordon (dislocated shoulder) out for season.

day against the unbeaten Eagles at Soldier Field.

Browns RB Suggs ready

BEREA, Ohio — Browns running back Les Suggs, inactive for Cleveland's first three games with a neck stinger, has been granted medical clearance to practice at full speed this week.

The speedy second-year back from Virginia Tech expects to make his season debut Sunday against the Washington Redskins.



Top Scores for Week 3

210	SEAHAWK FAN	304	MOMAU FIVE
210	Texas Are Champs	304	HMC III Corps
208	junya	304	11MDG Osan AB, Korea
206	huttbama	304	Aviano
202	Steel City Player	304	RAMSTEIN
200	Chief	304	35th S&S Bn
200	Houston	304	Yongsan
198	awc2002	304	NWFF
198	NUPE NUPE	304	HHH 264TH CSB
198	That Guy	304	Kadena AB, Japan

See www.starstripes.com for official game rules.

Best Overall Scores

610	Chickybowwow	726	AMS
600	razor	726	86 mvg/pa
600	glants#1	726	hnc 2/37 ar
588	Jaguar One	726	DoDDS
584	steeler on the rhine	726	Sembach AB
580	JackSB	726	422 ABS RAF Croughton
578	me	726	Darmstadt
574	WPNLead	726	spangdahlem
574	Hillbilly	726	52 AMWS
572	DR DOOM	726	Heidelberg

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Winslow now out for year

Browns rookie TE needs second surgery

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Browns rookie tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. needs a second operation on his right leg and will miss the remainder of this season.

Winslow, who broke his fibula during a loss on Sept. 19 in Dallas and had it operated on last week, will have surgery Wednesday to stabilize ligaments.

Winslow, the No. 6 overall pick in this year's draft, was initially expected to be out for at least eight to 10 weeks, but now will need longer to recover.

"Our No. 1 concern is Kellen's health and his long-term contribution to the Cleveland Browns," coach Bill Belichick said in a statement Tuesday. "We know he will approach his rehabilitation with the same determination that he shows on the football field and look forward to his return for the 2005 season."

Winslow fractured his fibula — the outer bone in his lower leg — while scrambling to recover an outside kick in the final seconds of the Browns' 19-12 loss to the Cowboys.

Last week, the first-round draft pick had screws and plates inserted to stabilize the fracture that was clean through the bone.

Following the surgery, Davis reported that doctors found no ligament damage and said there was a good chance Winslow would be back in November.

But after evaluating Winslow, team doctors decided he needed more surgery.

"Kellen needs a stabilization of his syndesmosis [a sprain of the high ankle ligaments] in order to prevent further laxity," head trainer Mike Cofield said.

An injury such as Winslow's can sometimes require additional surgery.

Following a trauma to the lower leg or ankle, the joint can become unstable and painful, requiring an invasive procedure to allow the ligaments to heal properly.

Not only will Winslow not play again for the Browns in 2004, but he stands to lose a \$5.3 million one-time bonus, as well as the six-year, \$40 million contract he signed in August, Winslow had to participate in 35 percent of Cleveland's plays this season to reach an incentive to trigger the bonus.

The announcement that Winslow needs more surgery is yet another blow to the battered Browns (1-2), who have lost eight starters to injury in the season's first three weeks.

In addition to Winslow, defensive end Courtney Brown and linebacker Ben Taylor are out for the week with injuries. Taylor was placed on injured reserve Tuesday.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

AFC individual	
	Week 3
	Quarterback
	Att C
Pennington, NY-J	56
Manning, Ind.	102
Brady, N.E.	64
Plummer, Den.	104
Carr, Hou.	84
Gannon, Oak.	68
Bledsoe, Buf.	50
Roethlisberger, Pit.	42
Brees, S.D.	72
McNabb, Phil.	79

McNabb, Ten.	19
	Rushers
	Att
Brown, Ten.	65
Holmes, K.C.	74
James, Ind.	72
Martin, NY-J	61
J. Lewis, Bal.	62
Tomlinson, S.D.	67
Staley, Pit.	62
Dillon, N.E.	47
R. Johnson, Cin.	68

Griffin, Den.	60
	Receivers
	No Yds
Ward, Pit.	22 34
Harrison, Ind.	22 20
Wayne, Ind.	19 34
McMichael, Mia.	19 22
Smith, Den.	18 23
D. Davis, Hou.	17 18
C. Johnson, Cin.	16 24
Gates, S.D.	16 19
Bennett, Ten.	16 15
Mason, Ten.	15 19

Punters
Lechler, Oak.
Knorr, Den.
Jo. Miller, N.E.
Frost, Cle.
Cheek, K.C.
H. Smith, Ind.
Scifres, S.D.
Gardocki, Pit.
Hanson, Jac.
Larson, Cin.

	Punt Returns	
	No	Yds
Hall, K.C.	4	5
Smith, Den.	7	8
Lewis, Jac.	11	12
Sams, Bal.	14	14
Moses, Hou.	7	7
Brightful, Mia.	9	8
E. Parker, S.D.	8	7
Buchanon, Oak.	4	3
Northcutt, Cle.	4	3
Brown, N.E.	4	3

	Kickoff Returns	
	No	Yds
Droughns, Den.	8	244
Gabriel, Oak.	5	147
Dwight, S.D.	13	365
Pyatt, Ind.	4	111
Randle El, Pit.	7	199
Brightful, Mia.	5	122
Welker, S.D.-Mia.	7	167
Hall, K.C.	9	209
Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	8	185

McGee, Buf.	4	9
	Scoring	
	Touchdown	
	TD R	
Holmes, K.C.	4	
Martin, NY-J	4	
Bettis, Pit.	3	
Graham, N.E.	3	
Griffin, Den.	3	
James, Ind.	3	
J. Lewis, Bal.	3	
Stokley, Ind.	3	

11 tied	Kicking	PAT
Elam, Den.	6- 6	5- 5
Janikowski, Oak.	5- 5	4- 4
Graham, Cin.	4- 4	3- 3
P. Dawson, Cle.	3- 3	4- 4
K. Brown, Hou.	4- 4	13-13
Vanderjagt, Ind.	13-13	8- 8
Kaeding, S.D.	8- 8	5- 5
Stover, Bal.	5- 5	5- 5
Vinaterri, N.E.	5- 5	8- 8
Brien, NY-J	8- 8	

Team statistics	
AVERAGE PER GAME	
OFFENSE	YARDS
Indianapolis	424.0
New York Jets	414.0
New England	390.0
Denver	383.0
Oakland	373.0
Houston	365.0

Kansas City	33
Cincinnati	33
Baltimore	29
Tennessee	29
San Diego	28
Pittsburgh	28
Cleveland	28
Buffalo	28
Miami	27
Jacksonville	27
DEFENSE	

Denver	27
Buffalo	26
Miami	25
Pittsburgh	25
Jacksonville	25
Oakland	25
Tennessee	25
New England	30
Houston	31
Baltimore	31
New York Jets	31

NFC individual leaders

	Yds	TD	Int	
2	482	4	0	Culpepper
3	903	9	1	McNabb
4	554	5	3	Favre, G.
5	774	4	2	Bulger, S.
6	775	3	4	Warner, S.
7	524	3	2	Aa. Brook
8	351	2	1	Harrington
9	339	3	3	Hasselbeck
10	476	3	2	Delhomme
11	409	1	2	

489	1	2		
ds	Avg	LG	TD	
53	5.4	52	2	T. Jones,
51	4.7	33t	4	Green, G.
28	4.6	30t	3	Portis, W.
15	5.2	24t	3	Barber, N.
05	4.9	75t	3	Alexander,
58	4.0	32	2	Westbrook,
49	4.0	38	0	Dunn, At.
44	5.2	38	0	Barlow, S.
32	3.4	19	1	O. Smith,
				M. Faulk,

29	3.8	47	2	
Avg	LG	TD		
15.7	58	2	Bruce, St	
9.4	34	2	Holt, St L	
18.2	44	2	Horn, N.O	
11.7	37	1	Walker, C	
13.0	34	1	Jackson, S	
10.6	38	0	Moss, M	
15.2	53	1	Owens, P	
12.0	29	0	E. Johnso	
9.7	19	0	Gardner,	
13.2	33	0	Williams,	
			Stallwort	

Yds	LG	Avg	
481	63	48.1	
615	66	47.3	Maynard
279	53	46.5	Tupa, Wa
720	54	45.0	Harris, D
447	55	44.7	Landeta,
400	62	44.4	Mohr, At
608	59	43.4	D. Johnso
824	58	43.4	Bidwell,
952	69	43.4	Rouen, S
775	54	43.1	Player, A

Avg	LG	TD	
14.0	26	0	M. Lewis,
12.4	30	0	Rossum,
11.6	50	0	Jones, NY
10.2	63	0	Chatman,
10.1	21	0	Engram,
9.9	36	0	Ward, Da
9.9	19	0	Mahe, Ph
8.0	15	0	Morton, I
7.5	12	0	Baker, Ca
6.8	22	0	

Avg	LG	TD	
30.5	48	0	Drummond, Det.
29.4	64	0	Smart, Car.
28.1	87t	1	Murphy, T.B.
27.5	32	0	Chalmers, Min.
27.4	41	0	Reed, Ph.
25.2	32	0	Ponder, N.Y.-J.
24.0	33	0	Cox, T.B.
23.2	45	0	M. Lewis, N.O.
23.1	32	0	Robertson, S.E.

22.8	27	0	Berrian, T.
n Rec	Ret	Pts	
0	0	24	Alexander, S.E.
1	0	24	Moss, Mike
0	0	18	Owens, Phil
3	0	18	Dunn, At
1	0	18	T. Jones, Cin
0	0	18	Williams, Det
0	0	18	Green, G.B.
3	0	18	Walker, G.B.

		12	M. Faulk, 11 tied
FG	LG	Pts	
7- 8	45	27	Carney, N.
7- 8	40	26	Akers, Phil.
7- 8	48	25	Andersen, S.
7- 7	49	24	Christie, N.Y.-J.
6- 6	49	22	Feely, At.
3- 4	45	22	Wilkins, S.D.
4- 4	51	20	J. Brown, S.E.
5- 5	42	20	Longwell, G.B.
5- 5	43	20	Gramatica, T.B.
3- 3	28	17	Hall, Was.

'Awful calls' frustrate Gibbs

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Apparently even a Hall of Fame coach doesn't get a break from the officials.

Washington Redskins coach Joe Gibbs on Tuesday reviewed the tape of the previous night's loss to the Dallas Cowboys and determined he was on the wrong side of "two awful calls."

"I don't get focused on that stuff. It doesn't do any good to talk about it," Gibbs said. "But I'll tell you this — you couldn't get anything further from what should have been called in both cases. Both of them were touchdowns; both of them go against us."

Disputable calls that went both ways played a significant part in Dallas' 21-18 victory.

"You're frustrated. You're mad, and realize that in close games you need to have those things called correctly," Gibbs said. "I've been in it long enough to know that just doesn't happen sometimes, too. They miss a lot of stuff."

Gibbs was particularly unhappy with a first-quarter pass interference call on Walt Harris, who was grabbed first by Dallas receiver Terry Glenn. The 40-year-old defensive gave Dallas the ball on the 1-yard line, and the Cowboys scored on the next play.

Then, in the fourth quarter, with Washington trailing 21-10, Rod Gardner just missed chasing down a long pass in the end zone with defensive back Terence Newman trailing.

"That play was worth Gibbs' blow-up," he said. "The DB is at his back, not looking at all backward toward the passer," Gibbs said. "He's just looking at Rod. When he goes into the end zone he took his eyes off him and comes down and hooks Rod's arm and pulls it down before the ball got there."



FOURTH-QUARTER TALK
Redskins comeback Walt Harris was called for interference on Terry Glenn on this play, which set up the Cowboys' first touchdown.

Gibbs said both plays have been sent to the NFL office for review, the usual procedure for any calls that are questionable.

Gibbs didn't mention another call that went against the Redskins, a muffed punt jarred loose by Mike Sellers. The play was ruled down by contact.

Or, for that matter, an important call that went the Redskins' way: running back Clinton Portis not being ruled down by contact on a key third down even though his knee had clearly touched the ground.

The disputable calls, replay challenges, penalties and wasted

timeouts made for a game that had no flow and was sometimes laborious to watch. Despite his comments about the officiating, Gibbs was the first to acknowledge that the Redskins could have won the game simply by making fewer mistakes on offense.

Mark Brunell started slowly and was sacked five times. A first-and-goal at the 1 result in just a field goal. Two vital time-outs were wasted in the third quarter, and Gibbs then used his last one early in the fourth quarter in a long exchange that was correctly upheld.

"On offense, we're not real smooth over there," Gibbs said.

Baseball back in D.C. after 33-year hiatus

City plans celebration, awaits announcement of Expos' move to nation's capital

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Richard Nixon was president and man was still making trips to the moon the last time the word "Washington" appeared in the Major League Baseball standings.

On Opening Day, April 4, 2005, look for the nation's capital to return.

Baseball was to announce Wednesday that Washington will be the new home of the Montreal Expos, according to a city official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The city was to celebrate Wednesday afternoon with a news conference featuring people associated with the old Washington Senators, the official said.

"I think we'll be in a position where we can have a celebration tomorrow," Mayor Anthony Williams told WUSA-TV late Tuesday.

Williams was noncommittal at his regular weekly news conference Wednesday, telling reporters he was still waiting for official notification from Major League Baseball officials.

The announcement comes one day before the 33rd anniversary of the Senators' final game. The team moved to Texas after the 1971 season, which was also the last time a major league team was relocated.

A crucial hurdle was cleared this week when, according to the

city official, baseball reached an understanding with Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, who had previously objected to having a team relocate just 40 miles from the Orioles' Camden Yards stadium.

Baseball has been looking for a new home for the Expos since the financially troubled team was bought by the other 29 major league owners in 2002.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, did not return telephone messages seeking comment Tuesday night. Angelos refused comment when reached at his home, and there was no confirmation by baseball of a deal between the commissioner's office and Angelos.

Las Vegas, Norfolk, Va.; Monterrey, Mexico; Portland, Ore.; and Northern Virginia also made bids, but Washington clearly took the lead during negotiations over recent weeks, strengthened by its wealthy population base and a financial package that would build a new stadium primarily with taxpayers' money.

The negotiations have produced a 30-page document that would conditionally award the Expos to Washington, pending approval by the City Council. The document has not yet been signed as of Tuesday night, the city source told the AP.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, reached at his Milwaukee home, declined comment.

Plans call for a \$440 million



President Eisenhower makes the Opening Day pitch to get the baseball season underway in Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., in this April 13, 1954 photo. Washington was awaiting an announcement Wednesday that the Montreal Expos will move to the city for the 2005 season.

package that would include a new ballpark to be built along the Anacostia River about a dozen blocks south of the U.S. Capitol. The package also includes a \$13 million refurbishment of RFK Stadium, where the team would play for three seasons while the new facility is being built.

Some fans interviewed Wednesday in the district's downtown were wary of the financial implications for the cash-strapped city

government.

"It's probably money that could be better spent elsewhere," said John Beckley, a Virginia resident who routinely travels to Baltimore to see the Orioles play.

"I guess the nation's capital deserves to have a representative in baseball, but obviously it's going to cost a lot of money," said Stephen Thomas, a district resident.

Others, like retired district

resident Bob Ryan, were clearly elated.

"I've lived here all my life. I was a Washington Senators fan in the old days," Ryan said. "It's good to have it back."

Washington needed an answer from Major League Baseball this week because the ballpark legislation had to be introduced in the City Council by Friday in order for it to be passed by Dec. 31, when terms expire for several pro-baseball council members.

Even now, some members of the council think the deal might not pass because it is perceived as too generous to baseball in a city that struggles to fund adequate schools and city services.

"I think everyone is excited about baseball coming to the District," Councilman Adrian Fenty said. "Very few District residents are excited about a full subsidy to pay for this stadium. ... At the end of the day, you're not going to have seven council members support it."

The move also must be approved by three-quarters of major league owners and survive legal challenges by the Expos' former United States partner.

After the announcement, the process of selling the Expos will start. A group that includes former Rangers partner Fred Malek has been seeking a Washington franchise for five years. In addition, several baseball officials have said in the past week that Stan Kasten, former president of the Atlanta Braves, Hawks and Thrashers, might be trying to assemble a group.

Magic comeback reduces L.A.'s magic number to 3

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Milton Bradley snapped. Then, aided by the horrendous Colorado Rockies' bullpen, the Los Angeles Dodgers pulled off perhaps their most improbable victory of the season.

Steve Finley's two-run single capped a five-run rally in the ninth inning that gave the Dodgers a 5-4 victory over the Rockies on Tuesday night, enabling them to lower their magic number for winning the NL West championship to three. They lead San Francisco by three games and five remaining.

"It's the most unbelievable comeback I've ever been a part of in the close to 30 years that I've been in the game," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "I really don't have words to express what I just witnessed."

Colorado's Vinny Castilla did.

"Unbelievable. Pitchers couldn't throw strikes," he said. "If you can't win this game, what game can you win? It's unbelievable."

The Rockies led 4-0 entering the ninth thanks mainly to the three-hit pitching of Jamey Wright and three relievers and a two-run error by Bradley that led to the Los Angeles outfielder's ejection.

Shawn Chacon struck out Omedo Saenz to start the ninth, but walked Alex Cora, pinch-hitter Robin Ventura and Jose Hernandez, and Cesar Izturis to force in a run.



San Francisco Giants A.J. Pierzynski, left, and J.T. Snow celebrate after beating the San Diego Padres on Tuesday to move into a tie with the Cubs in the NL wild-card race.

Tim Lincecum (6-6) relieved and gave up a two-run double to Jayson Werth and Finley's single, a grounder between first and second.

"My mechanics were messed up," a disconsolate Chacon said. "I don't know what it was. This one hurts."

Elmer Dessens (2-6), who retired the Rockies in order in the top of the ninth, was the winner.

Bradley was thrown out of the game after a fan threw a plastic bottle at him following his two-out error and subsequent RBI single by Brad Hawpe that capped a three-run, eighth-inning rally by the Rockies.

Bradley couldn't handle pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney's liner with the bases loaded, allowing two runs to score and giving the Rockies a 3-0 lead.

Bradley, whose temper led the Cleveland Indians to trade him to the Dodgers before the season, picked up the bottle, left his position and angrily approached the stands — appearing to yell at a fan. He then slammed the bottle into the front row of the stands.

Several Dodgers players came out to right field and tried to calm down Bradley, who was arguing with umpire Jim Joyce and was ejected.

As Bradley walked from right field to the Dodgers' dugout, he took his jersey and hat off. With the crowd behind the dugout bellowing, Bradley gestured with palms up, urging the fans on.

The game was delayed for about four minutes.

Giants 7, Padres 5: Edgardo Alfonzo's two-run double capped a six-run rally in the fourth for San Francisco at Petco Park as the Giants moved into a tie with Chicago atop the NL wild-card standings.

Jason Schmidt (17-7) won for the second time in eight starts, allowing four runs and seven hits in six innings.

The Padres are three games out in the wild-card race with five to play and were eliminated from contention in the West.

Reds 8, Cubs 3: At Chicago, Adam Dunn reached 100 RBIs for the first time with his 44th homer to help hand the Cubs a costly loss in the wild-card race.

D'Angelo Jimenez and Darren Bragg also connected off Greg Maddux (15-11).

Astros 2, Cardinals 1: At Houston, Jeff Backus drove in two runs, and Brandon Backus (4-3) pitched five solid innings to help the Astros close to within a half-game of San Francisco and Chicago in the NL wild-card race with their 14th straight home win, equalling a franchise record set in 1980.

St. Louis third baseman Scott Rolen went 0-for-3 in his return after missing 16 games with a strained upper left calf and bruised left shin.

Marlins 5, Expos 2: At Montreal, Jeff Conine homered and Mike Lowell (11-11) drove in two runs to lead Florida to a win in what might prove to be the Expos' second-to-last game at Olympic Stadium.

A crowd of 5,416 was on hand, likely the last tiny baseball crowd at the stadium. The Expos are expected to be relocated for 2005, and about 20,000 to 25,000 fans are expected to see the team's final home game of the season — and probably ever — in Montreal on Wednesday.

Mets 2-2, Braves 1-5: At Atlanta, Johnny Estrada's tiebreaking sixth-inning single helped the Braves split a doubleheader with the Mets.

The Mets won their opener on solo homers by Gerald Williams and Eric Valenz.

Diamondbacks 9, Brewers 8 (11): At Phoenix, Alan Zinter hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 11th to give Arizona the win.

Guerrero homers twice as Angels soar into first place

Anaheim routs Texas, ties Oakland atop AL West

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — For the first time in over three months, the Anaheim Angels are back in first place.

Vladimir Guerrero homered twice and drove in five runs while leading 4-for-5 Tuesday night to go the Angels to their fourth straight victory, 8-2 over the Texas Rangers.

Anaheim (89-68) returned to top of the AL West in a tie with Oakland for the first time since June 8 after the Athletics lost 7-4 later Tuesday night to Seattle. The Rangers (86-71) are three games back with five to play.

"This thing can change momentum in a heartbeat. There's no reason to put too much stock in where we are," manager Mike Scioscia said. "The challenge is in front of us, and the opportunity is in front of us also."

The Angels never trailed Texas after Guerrero's two-run solo homer in the first. It was 8-0 after the MVP contender's 36th homer, a three-run shot in the sixth.

"I'm not trying to play the MVP. I'm trying to play every day to win a championship," Guerrero said.

AL Roundup

"Right now, obviously his stroke of driving the ball is re-emerging, and that's great to see. It's a great time to see it," Scioscia said. "He's been about as consistent as any player I've seen from start to finish."

Guerrero also had a homer and a double in the Angels' 5-3 win on Monday night to start the series at Texas.

"I don't think he has much of an approach at the plate. He just goes out there and swings," said Angels starter Kelvin Escobar, the beneficiary Tuesday. "I don't think you can do much against him. You can make him look stupid on one pitch, and he'll hit it out of the park on the next pitch."

Escobar (11-12) allowed just two runs on three hits over six innings to win for the first time in four starts against Texas this season. He struck out three and walked one.

Garret Anderson and Dallas McPherson also homered for the Angels, who have two games left in Texas before a season-ending three-game series in Oakland.

Texas starter Chan Ho Park (3-7), 0-3 with a 6.55 in six September starts, gave up four runs on six hits over 4 2/3 innings. He walked four.

"Chan Ho wasn't sharp enough to be facing a team like this," manager Buck Showalter said.

Red Sox 10, Devil Rays 8 (11): At St. Petersburg, Fla., Kevin Millar's two-out, two-run homer in the 11th inning pulled Boston within 2 1/2 games of the New York Yankees in the AL East.

The Red Sox, who clinched a playoff spot Monday, matched their win total for last season and have won 95 games in consecutive seasons for just the third time in franchise history.

David Ortiz doubled off Danyis Baez (4-4) with two outs in the 11th. Millar followed with his 18th homer.

Ramiro Mendoza (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory. Keith Foulke got three outs for his 31st save.

Indians 5, Royals 1: At Kansas City, Mo., Ryan Ludwick, Ronnie Belliard and Casey Blake homered to help Cleveland hand Kansas City its 100th loss of the season. He struck out three and walked one.



Anaheim Angels' Vladimir Guerrero follows through on his second home run of the game, a three-run shot in the sixth inning of the Angels' 8-2 victory over the Rangers in Arlington, Texas. Guerrero went 4-for-5.

Cliff Lee (13-8) retired 16 in a row at one point in 6 1/2 innings.

Darrell May (9-19) leads the major leagues in losses.

Tigers 6, White Sox 4: At Detroit, Eric Munson hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh off Neal Cotts (4-4).

Bobby Higginson reached base in all five plate appearances with

a homer, double and three walks. Omar Infante also homered for the Tigers.

Paul Konerko hit his 41st homer, placing him in a tie for fourth on Chicago's single-season list.

Franklyn Gorman (1-0) got the win in relief with two perfect innings, and Esteban Yan pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Suzuki adds to hits total vs. A's; just three off Sisler's mark

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Had it not been for a crazy bounce, Ichiro Suzuki would have added another hit to his astonishing total.

Suzuki had two hits to move within three of tying the season record, and the Seattle Mariners pounded Oakland starter Tim Hudson (12-6) in a 7-2 victory Tuesday night that dropped the Athletics into a first-place tie with

Anaheim. The Angels won 8-2 at Texas.

In his second at-bat, Suzuki hit a sharp liner that went off Hudson's back and bounced in front of shortstop Bobby Crosby, who had to make a tough play to get Suzuki at first. Had Hudson not gotten in the way, it would've been a line drive up the middle.

"Of course when that ball hit Hudson, he acted like it didn't even hit him. He didn't show any

pain," Suzuki said. "Even though he's the enemy, he's a great pitcher and someone I really like."

Oakland dropped out of sole possession of first place for the first time in 54 days, since the team was a half-game behind Texas on Aug. 5.

Bret Boone hit a two-run homer and Jeremy Reed had a double among his three hits and also drove in a run. Gil Meche (7-6) won his third straight de-

sion to beat the A's for the first time in nine career starts.

Greg Dobbs added two hits and two RBIs for Seattle (61-96), trying to avoid the club's first 100-loss season since 1983. The A's have lost six of eight.

"Once we figure out how to pitch to Reed and Dobbs, we'll be in good shape," Hudson said. "We're not supermen out there. All those dead September callups, that's our kryptonite, I guess.

Five games left and we're all knocked in. We need to win three of five and they need to lose three of five."

Suzuki finished 2-for-5 and needs four hits in Seattle's final five games to break Greg Sisler's 84-year-old record of 257 hits in a season.

"Five games left and it's been a good season for me. I hope I don't regret anything and go out there and finish it off," Suzuki said.

During the recount of the 2000 Election in Florida, a lawyer wrote a memorandum explaining how to use legal technicalities to disqualify the Absentee Ballot Votes of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen serving overseas.

We Believe that the Americans Defending Our Democracy Ought To Have Their Votes Counted In Our Elections.

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Giants' closer suspended

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — San Francisco Giants pitcher Dustin Hermanson was suspended for three games for intentionally hitting

MLB briefs

Jeff Kent of the Houston Astros with a pitch in a game last week.

Hermanson also was fined an undisclosed amount, baseball's vice president, Bob Watson, announced Tuesday. Hermanson, the Giants' closer, is appealing, and the suspension will remain on hold until the process is completed.

Hermanson hit former Giants second baseman Kent with a pitch after warnings were issued during the game in San Francisco on Sept. 23. The Giants and the As-

trots are in a tight race for the playoffs in the last week of the season.

Red Sox, Yankees pitchers each suspended three games

NEW YORK — Pitchers Pedro Astacio of Boston and Brad Halsey of New York each were suspended Tuesday for three games and fined an undisclosed amount for intentionally throwing at batters.

The disciplinary action was announced by Bob Watson, baseball's vice president of onfield operations.

Astacio and Halsey appealed, so they remain eligible to pitch until their hearings.

Astacio was tossed Sunday for throwing behind Kenny Lofton, while Halsey and Yankees manager Joe Torre were ejected after the reliever threw a pitch high and tight to Dave Roberts.

Tiger's 2000 season still the benchmark

Vijay Singh has one month to put the final touches on what already is a masterpiece.

He won for the eighth time this year in the 84 Lumber Classic, setting the earnings record for a season with more than \$9.4 million. Singh has at least three tournaments left, so the 10-10 mark — 10 victories, \$10 million — is in range. And as a sign that the 41-year-old Fijian is only getting stronger, he has won five of his past six starts.

Clearly, comparisons with Tiger Woods are inevitable.

As long as the year is 1999 — not 2000.

Five years ago, Woods launched a spectacular finish to the season by winning the PGA Championship at Medinah. He became No. 1 in the world, shattered the season money record and wound up with eight tour victories, winning five of his last six starts.

Singh is every bit as good as that.

But no one stacks up against Woods in 2000, the modern standard of greatness.

"Tiger won three majors in 2000," Singh said. "You can't beat three majors. It's so much more difficult to win major events than normal tournaments. I'm just going to try to enjoy my own good season."

Indeed, Singh should take a bow.

He plays Woods (1999, 2000), Johnny Miller (1974) and Arnold Palmer (1960, 1962) as the only players since 1960 to have won at least eight PGA Tour events in one year. If he were to run the table and finish with 11 victories, that would tie for third-best in a year behind Byron Nelson (18 in 1945) and Ben Hogan (13 in 1946). Sam Snead won 11 in 1950.

Still, Singh's phenomenal season only illustrates how dominant Woods was in 2000, when he won nine times, captured the final three majors and set or tied 27 records.

"To me, that's still the best year anybody ever had," Stewart Cink said. "Unfortunately for Vijay, he doesn't have any more major tournaments this year."

Doug Ferguson



Everyone remembers the majors, but that was only a part of what made Woods' 2000 the Mona Lisa of golf. And that's why trying to match Singh in 2004 against Woods in 2000 is like putting the Americans against Europe in the Ryder Cup.

It's no contest.

Majors: Singh won his only major, the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, when Justin Leonard bogeyed the last two holes in regulation and Singh won the three-hole playoff by making his only birdie of the day.

Woods won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by a record 15 shots. He completed the career Grand Slam at St. Andrews by winning the British Open by eight shots. He won the PGA Championship in a playoff over Bob May after both shot a bogey-free 31 on the back nine at Valhalla.

Victories: Woods doesn't play as often as Singh, but he usually plays only the tournaments that attract the strongest fields. All but one of his victories in 2000 included at least seven of the top 10 players on the PGA Tour money list that season, the exception coming in the Canadian Open. He won nine of the 20 tournaments he played.

Unless he changes his schedule, Singh will have played 29 times in 2004. He beat Woods head-to-head in Boston to replace him as No. 1 in the world, and he also held off Woods in the Buick Open.

But three of Singh's victories — 84 Lumber, Houston Open, New Orleans — included only one other player from the top five in the world ranking.

Margin of victory: Singh's most dominant victory this year came at Pebble Beach, where he started the final round tied with

Arron Oberholser and won by three shots. Woods won five tournaments in 2000 by at least four shots, two of those by double digits (15 shots in the U.S. Open, 11 shots in the NEC Invitational).

Both players won twice in a playoff. Woods won his nine tournaments by a combined 46 shots. Singh has won eight times by a combined 11 shots.

Money: Although the seasons are only four years apart, the money is substantially higher in 2004 than it was when Woods set the record of \$9.1 million in 2000.

Singh has played in 18 tournaments with at least a \$5 million purse; Woods played in only six of those in 2000. Singh has played 26 tournaments with a total purse of \$139.6 million; Woods played 29 tournaments with a total purse of \$77.3 million. Comparatively, Woods won 11.8 percent of the purse he played for in 2000. Singh has won 6.8 percent of the purse he has played for this year.

In other words, if prize money in 2000 were equal to 2004, Woods would have earned \$13,336,532.

Scoring: Singh leads the PGA Tour with a 68.92 adjusted scoring average, giving him a 0.2 lead over Phil Mickelson. Woods set the record in 2000 at 67.79, which was nearly 1½ strokes better than Mickelson.

Woods was under par in every tournament and played his final 47 rounds (including three majors) at par or better. Singh has finished four tournaments over par, and he missed the cut at Torrey Pines.

Top 10s: Singh is 15 of 26 in top 10s, and he has been outside the top 25 five times. Woods was 17 of 20 in top 10s, and his worst finish was a tie for 23rd.

Singh's season is worth celebrating.

But for there to be any comparisons with Woods, he will have to come up with something truly special next year.

Doug Ferguson covers golf for The Associated Press.

Woods might pull out of AmEx event

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — Defending champion Tiger Woods said Wednesday he injured his back sleeping on a plane last week and will not know until just before his tee time whether he can play in the \$7 million American Express Championship.

Woods played only seven holes in a practice round at Mount Juliet before his back stiffened and he decided not to risk further injury. He was asked if there was any doubt he would play Thursday.

"Yeah, there is a little bit," Woods said. "Warm-up session will probably determine it."

Woods said he hurt his back when he fell asleep on his plane returning from New York last Tuesday after spending the day promoting his new video game.

"It's spasmed up and hasn't been the same since," he said.

Woods is to tee off at 12:50 p.m. local time with Luke Donald and K.J. Choi.

"If I'm able to go, I'll go," Woods said. "If I can't, then I won't. I've never been one to pull out of tournaments and quit just because I'm physically sore. But if I can't actually swing a golf club, then it's pretty tough to play."

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SPORTS



Official says baseball returning to Washington D.C. as city waits for announcement from MLB, Page 28

Navy on defensive

Commander In Chief's Trophy motivates Midshipmen, Falcons

BY MARK SCHLABACH
The Washington Post

A few minutes after Navy beat Army last December, Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk had an order for Capt. Greg Cooper, the academy's deputy director of athletics. "Go get the trophy," Gladchuk told him. Two days later, Cooper flew to the Air Force Academy, where he gladly accepted the Commander In Chief's Trophy from the Falcons.

But later that day, when Cooper arrived at Colorado Springs, Colo., Airport with the trophy delicately packed in its metal box, airline officials told him they couldn't fit the box through the boarding door or into the cargo hold of the jet taking him to Baltimore. Airline personnel suggested shipping the trophy, which would arrive in three or four days.

"You don't understand," Cooper told them. "I'm not going back to the academy without it." So Cooper did what any proud Midshipman would do. He rented a U-haul truck, strapped the trophy in and drove more than 1,700 miles to Annapolis, Md.

"I never realized there were so many country-western radio stations between here and Colorado Springs," Cooper said. "It was a labor of love, but we were eager to show the Midshipmen what they'd won."

For the past 10 months, the Commander In Chief's Trophy, which is given annually to the winner of the football competition among Army, Navy and Air



Navy at Air Force
1:30 a.m. Friday
AFN Sports

Game time is Central European.

Force, has sat in a glass case in Bancroft Hall, which houses more than 4,000 midshipmen at the academy. Navy hadn't won the trophy since 1961, but by beating Air Force, 28-25, and Army, 34-6, the Midshipmen claimed the 2½-foot, 170-pound trophy topped by three footballs.

Navy will try to take the first step in retaining the trophy Thursday night when it plays Air Force at Falcon Stadium. The Midshipmen are off to their first 4-0 start since 1979; Air Force is 2-2, having lost to nationally ranked California and Utah. Navy plays Army (winless so far) Dec. 4 in Philadelphia; the Falcons play the Cadets on Nov. 6 in West Point, N.Y.

"We've had that taste back in our mouths," Navy quarterback Aaron Polanco said. "It means so much to all of the midshipmen and the entire fleet. It just means so much to everyone involved."

Navy has won the trophy in consecutive seasons only once, in 1978 and 1979. Air Force, which had won the trophy for six consecutive seasons before last season, has won the trophy 16 times since



KRT

Senior quarterback Aaron Polanco (6) leads Navy (4-0) with an average of 98.2 rushing yards a game.

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 27

Second operation on broken leg means Browns rookie tight end Winslow will miss rest of the season

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Dodgers strike for five runs in ninth, reduce magic number to 3 in NL West

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Guerrero has two HRs, five RBIs as Angels move into tie for first in AL West for first time since June 8

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Source: Winless Dolphins switch back to Fiedler at QB Page 25